FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 OCTOBER 1986

Britain's Decision To Break Relations With Syria

Syrian Response — A "responsible source" cited by Damascus television 24 October announced Syria's response to Britain's "unjustified" decision, stating that Syria has decided to close the British Embassy and British Council and to close Syrian airports, airspace, ports, and territorial waters to British aircraft and shipping. British Embassy and Council employees were given 1 week to leave the country and the statement also noted Syria's decision to suspend Syrian Arab Airline flights to London. A Damascus radio commentary the following day warned that the British Government will have to "pay the price of this hostile step which is based on premeditated lies, prevarications, and provocations." The radio accused Britain of joining a "U.S.-Israeli plot" to harm Syria and pressure it to change its "firm policy" against Israel and the United States. Recalling Britain's "black colonialist history" and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's friendship with Israel, the radio said it was not surprising that Thatcher's government joined Israeli and U.S. intelligence in a "vile plot" to create an atmosphere conducive to pressuring and blackmailing Syria and to launching some sort of "adventure" against it. The radio viewed Britain's accusations of Syrian involvement in the attempt to sabotage an Israeli airliner as "strange and astonishing," reaffirming Syria's condemnation of terrorism, which "serves Israel and not the Arabs." Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' subsequently held a news conference during which he "refuted all the points" mentioned in the British foreign secretary's 24 October statement to the British Parliament, according to Damascus television. Al-Shar' emphasized that British nationals in Syria will receive care and attention and he said Syria will continue its efforts to secure the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon. The U.S. decision to recall ambassador William Eagleton from Damascus was noted by Damascus radio, and an *Al-Ba'th* commentary cited by the radio stated that "the British decision against Syria and the swift U.S. and Israeli reactions to this decision have once again placed the Middle East on the edge of a volcano."

Israeli Comment — Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir welcomed Britain's "very important and positive" decision in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem television, noting that Israel has always stressed the importance of taking steps against states that assist terrorists. The Israeli transportation minister announced that Israel is willing to place its air corridors at the disposal of British aircraft, Jerusalem radio noted. Meanwhile, *Hadashot* claimed that Israel passed secret information to Britain on Syria's direct responsibility for the attempt to sabotage the El Al plane, adding that this information was one of the factors which prompted Mrs Thatcher to cut relations with Syria. Citing senior Israeli political sources, *Hadashot* said the Israelis informed the British of a "detailed Syrian plan" to attack the airliner, adding that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad apparently had knowledge of the plot. In another development concerning Syria, *Davar* disclosed that Israel will seek clarification and explanations from France concerning a report that it intends to sell weapons to Syria worth 3 billion francs.

Other Reaction — Libya denounced the British decision in a Foreign Liaison Bureau statement broadcast by Tripoli television, and JANA reported that Libyan authorities have decided to boycott British aviation and close Libyan airspace to British aviation. The U.S. Administration's decision to withdraw the U.S. ambassador from Damascus "exposed the dimensions of the plot being hatched by imperialist circles against the Arab nation," JANA asserted. The Iranian Foreign Ministry condemned Britain's action in a statement broadcast by Tehran radio, stressing Iran's "decisive and all-round support" for Syria. An Algerian Foreign Ministry statement carried by Algiers radio likewise expressed "complete support" for Syria, maintaining that Britain's justifications are unconvincing and that the British action is part of an attempt to force Syria to give up its "eminent position" in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Lebanese prime minister denounced Britain's decision in remarks reported by Beirut radio, and the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio cited a statement by the Lebanese Communist Party leader calling on Lebanon to break relations with Britain. Jordanian officials were not observed to comment on the issue, but the Jordanian papers *Al-Dustur and Jordan Times both viewed the break in British*-Syrian relations with regret and expressed concern that Israel will use the situation as an opportunity for launching an attack on Syria. The *Jordan Times* also warned that the British-Syrian rupture threatens to disrupt any possibility of holding an international conference on the Middle East, as both countries are "indispensable" to any such conference. In a commentary reported by MENA, the Egyptian paper *Al-Ahram* stressed that the British measures against Syria should not be taken as pretexts to poison the entire climate of Arab-European relations, adding that the Arab nation as a whole should not be held responsible for immoral terrorist actions carried out by "one or two Arab regimes." Another Egyptian comment came from the deputy editor of *Rose Al-Yusuf* magazine, who told Cairo radio that there is "strong evidence" of Syrian involvement in terrorism, which is "most damaging" for the Arabs and the Palestinian issue. The Arab League secretary general expressed "deep regret" over the British decision in a statement broadcast by Damascus radio, contending that the UK Government may have "fallen into the trap of accusations concocted by Zionist organs." As for Palestinian reaction, Damascus radio cited statements by the Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF) and affiliated groups denouncing the British Government's decision. While Sanaa radio cited a statement by the PNC speaker denouncing Britain's measures against Syria, monitored PLO radios ignored the issue, focusing instead on the Amal-Palestinian clashes in Lebanon.

Lebanon

Violent clashes between Amal Movement and Palestinian gunmen in the Sidon area subsided after a cease-fire agreement late on 26 October, according to Beirut radio, which also reported fierce fighting between the two sides in the Al-Rashidiyah camp area, south of Tyre. Voice of Lebanon radio said that Amal was tightening its siege of Al-Rashidiyah, but noted Palestinian claims to have captured two villages east of Sidon from Amal. The radio said that at least 30 people were killed and 80 were wounded in the fighting.

An Amal statement carried by Beirut radio blamed the Palestinians for the outbreak of the fighting near Sidon, claiming that hundreds of "suspect pro-'Arafat" Palestinian gunmen from the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah camps launched a large-scale attack on Amal positions early 25 October. Amal counterattacked and forced the Palestinians to retreat, according to the statement, which noted that the PNSF has ordered its members to keep out of the battle. A PLO communique cited by Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio accused the "fascist Amal gangs" of attempting to attack the Al-Miyah wa Miyah camp at a time when the Palestinians were attempting to avoid further bloodshed.

Gulf Conflict

Kuwaiti SAM's Fired — Kuwait fired two antiaircraft missiles at an unidentified plane off Kubbar Island 25 October, the chief of staff told KUNA. He noted that although the object disappeared from radar screens, a hit was unconfirmed. A spokesman for the Iranian War Information Headquarters cited by Tehran radio accused Kuwait of "negligence" in failing to disclose the identity of the plane and reiterated Iran's condemnation of any territorial violations of the region's countries. He offered Iranian aid in locating the plane's wreckage.

Iran-Iraq Fighting — An Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA denied an Iranian report that an Iraqi Mirage was shot down 27 October. Following Iran's claim to have downed two Iraqi warplanes 24 October, an Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio acknowleged that a warplane crashed during air strikes on targets inside Iran that day.

During his Friday sermon Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared that all conditions now favor an Iranian victory and warned Turkey that Iran would not allow the territorial integrity of Iraq to be violated following the fall of Saddam Husayn's regime, Tehran radio reported.

PLO-Jordan

Commenting on his visit to Amman over the weekend, Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan told the UAE paper *Al-Ittihad that he would hold contacts with Jordanian officials* and that the PLO firmly believes in the need to develop and strengthen relations with Jordan, WAKH reported. However, the Jordanian prime minister stated during a visit to Cairo that Al-Hasan was in Amman to attend the funeral of assassinated PLO official Mundhir Abu Ghazalah, stressing that Al-Hasan's visit has "no political significance," according to Amman radio. The PNC speaker and three PLO Executive Committee members also attended Abu Ghazalah's funeral 24 October, the *Jordan Times noted. In a related report, the Israeli paper 'Al Hamishmar* said that Egypt and Kuwait have persuaded Jordan to resume a dialogue with the PLO and to cool its relations with Syria.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak maintained that Israel now has a "commitment" to an international peace conference, stressing that if Israel breaches this, it will be reneging on the agreement concluded at the Alexandria talks, MENA reported. Mubarak said he believes that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is aware of this. The president also criticized Shamir's declared intention of expanding Israeli settlement activity, though he said Egypt would adopt a "wait and see" policy on the issue.

Israel

Jerusalem radio reported that Prime Minister Shamir's office turned down a request by Australian clergyman John Mcknight for an appointment to inquire about Mordekhay Vanunu, who disappeared after leaking Israeli nuclear secrets to a British newspaper. Mcknight said at a Jerusalem news conference that he has information that Vanunu is being held in Israel, the radio noted.

Maghreb

Algeria — President Chadli Bendjedid received Libyan Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud during a 1-day working visit, Algiers radio reported. In remarks cited by Tripoli radio, Jallud noted that his visit was aimed at advancing pan-Arab solidarity, especially unity between Libya and Algeria. France released 13 supporters of the opposition Algerian Democratic Movement who had been ordered deported and barred them from leaving their respective administrative districts, AFP reported.

Western Sahara — In a statement cited by Algiers radio, the Polisario responded to the pope's appeal by announcing a 24-hour unilateral cease-fire 27 October to stress "Saharan peaceful initiatives and good will."

Sudan

Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the secretary general of the opposition Islamic National Front met to discuss unity, the economic crisis, and civil strife in the south, according to AFP. Meanwhile, SUNA reported that "massive demonstrations" were held in Port Sudan 25 October to call for improving living conditions and public services.

PDRY

During his 3-day visit to Ethiopia, YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid was received by WPE Secretary General Mengistu Haile Mariam for talks which focused on strengthening bilateral relations, Addis Ababa radio reported.

In a Lebanese magazine interview cited by MENA, former PDRY leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said that it is time to openly declare that he will return to Aden since it has become difficult to reach a political settlement.

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Klibi, UK Envoy Discuss Break in Ties With Syria

LD252143 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Tunis, 25 Oct (KUNA) — The Arab League Secretariat General today expressed concern over the British government's decision to sever diplomatic relations with Syria and to close down the embassies of both countries within a week from yesterday.

Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi received British Ambassador to Tunis William James Adams at noon today and conveyed to him "the indignation of all the Arab countries at Britain's decision, which is not based on any sufficient logical or real evidence to incriminate the Syrian Government of helping journalist Nizar Hindawi in planning to detonate a bomb on an Israeli aircraft at Heathrow Airport last April, as the Old Bailey Court in London alleged."

KUNA has learned that Klibi, during his meeting with the British ambassador, said that "what the London government has done in this respect was not an ideal way of dealing with states." Klibi affirmed "the Arab states' solidarity with Syria at this particular moment" and warned of the consequences of the British Government's decision on British interests in the Arab homeland.

KUNA has also leared that the Arab League secretary general will issue a statement later today depicting the Arab views on the issue.

When leaving the meeting with Klibi, the British ambassador confined himself to saying that "we have discussed matters of great importance and common preoccupation."

Damascus Cites Palestinian Groups on Break With UK

JN252027 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Excerpts] Damascus — An official spokaesman of the Fatah Uprising Movement has stated that the British Government's decision to sever relations with Syria is a premeditated aggression against Syria by imperialist and Zionist circles in a clear attempt to strike at Syria's solid, courageous pan-Arab role in confronting liquidatory plans in the region.

Commenting on the British decision, the spokesman said Syria's firm reply to the British Government's step is a response to the feelings of our Arab masses, from the Gulf to the ocean. This dictates to all nationalist Arab forces and regimes to stand solidly by Syria and its courageous decision and to confront all attempts to harm Syria's steadfastness regarding the imperialist-Zionist onslaught.

The Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] has vehemently denounced the British measures against Syria and affirmed that they are considered a prelude to an aggression in the region aimed at Syria, the basic pillar of the Arab liberation forces in their pan-Arab battle against capitulatory plans and solutions in the region.

In a statement issued today, the PNSF said the steps taken by the British Government crowned the feverish campaigns launched by imperialist circles against Syria and all Arab liberation forces. The PNSF pointed out that the play staged in London in the Nizar al-Hindawi case was only part of this suspect campaign to harm Syria's pan-Arab, progressive stand. The PNSF explained that the British decision was within the framework of the concerted campaign to fabricate accusations and concoct plots against the Arab liberation forces in an attempt to exert pressure on some Arab countries that are standing firmly in defense of the Arab nation's rights and are confronting the imperialist-Zionist onslaught.

The PNSF affirmed that it stands by fraternal Syria in its pan-Arab, progressive battle against imperialism. It said: We regard any stand hostile to Syria as hostile to the entire Arab nation. The Arab nation is able to reply, regardless of the cost, and will not be intimidated by the continued imperialist threats and campaigns to harm Syria. We are proud of its stand and ability to reply to aggressors.

At the end of its statement, the PNSF urged the Arab countries to sever their relations with Britain and take measures that guarantee a reply to the steps taken by imperialist circles against the Arab nation. It also urged all the forces of liberation and progress in the world to stand by Syria in its pan-Arab, progressive battle and confront the British and imperialist measures and campaigns against the Arab nation in coordination with Zionism.

The PFLP-GC also denounced the aggression against Syria represented by Britain's imperialist encirclement of Syria, which is steadfast in the face of the official terrorism pursued by the NATO alliance against peoples struggling for freedom in general.

In a statement distributed today, an official source of the PFLP-GC highly appreciated the pan-Arab spirit demonstrated by Syria in its immediate, direct reply to this unjust British aggression. He urged all Arab countries and the revolutionary movements in the world to stand by Syria. He affirmed that the fighting Palestinian national rifle will always remain raised at the side of Damascus to confront the aggressive NATO campaign. The spokesman warned about this new campaign against Syria, which was preceded by a campaign against the Libyan Jamahiriyah and which coincides with the current Zionist campaign against Lebanon and the [Palestinian] revolution. At the conclusion of his statement, he asserted that confronting the imperialist challenge with a revolutionary and pan-Arab challenge can only be in the interest of Syria and all forces opposed to imperialism and Zionism. [passage omitted]

The DFLP affirmed that the British Government's decision to sever diplomatic relations with Syria falls within the framework of preparing an atmosphere for an aggression against Syria as part of the imperialist onslaught to impose a capitulationist settlement on the region. In a statement today, a DFLP spokesman explained that the British decision is within the context of the British Government's hostile stands to the Arab forces and is also an extension and continuation of the British foreign policy, which follows the imperialist policy of hostility to the Arab peoples and to the Palestinian people's rights to repatriation, self- determination, and an independent state. The DFLP stressed the need to unify the efforts and struggle of the nationalist Palestinian, Lebanese, and Syrian forces to face the aggression being prepared against Syria and the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon.

Farhan Abu al-Hayja', member of the PNSF leadership and spokesman of the Al-Sa'iqah Forces, also denounced the hostile British stand on Syria. He asserted that terrorism is the nature of the United States and Britain, as well as their protege, Israel. In a statement to a SANA correspondent in Beirut today, Abu al-Hayja' said the campaign and accusations of terrorism against Syria have no basis and are false. In conclusion, he said Al-Asad's Syria, leader of the Arab steadfastness, will not pay attention to these rabid campaigns and false allegations against it and will continue on the road of struggle and defense of Arab rights and causes.

PNC Speaker Denounces UK Action

JN261906 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] PNC Speaker 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has denounced Britain's measures against Syria. In a press statement issued in Amman today, Al-Sa'ih said those who want to condemn terrorism must immediately take a proper stance against the Zionist diehards and protectors of terrorism and their Israeli (?state).

Five Palestinian Organizations End Tunis Meetings

JN241001 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] A new round of talks among five Palestinian organizations was concluded in Tunis yesterday with a call for a new PNC session as soon as possible. The five organizations taking part in the dialogue were: The Fatah Movement, the DFLP, the Palestine Liberation Front, the ALF, and the Palestinian Communist Party. Organizations that oppose 'Arafat's policies and are close to Syria, headed by the Fatah uprising movement and the PFLP, did not attend the talks.

This is not the first time these five organizations have met. These organizations previously met in Moscow, East Berlin, Prague, Tunis, and Algiers without succeeding in convincing opposition organizations to take part in any of these meetings, which basically aim to restore PLO unity.

Informed sources believe the absence of a concluding statement on the Tunis meeting and the failure to fix a date and a venue for a PNC session are to allow for more contacts with oppostion organizations and to leave the door open for the Palestine National Salvation Front, which comprises the factions opposed to the PLO leadership, to take part in the inter-Palestinian dialogue and reach an agreement reflecting Palestinian consensus on the terms and bases for reformulating the political and organizational program on which PLO unity is to be restored.

Opposition Palestinian factions' reactions to the Tunis meetings have not yet been issued.

WAM: USSR Mediation Sought

JN251445 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1255 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Oct (WAM) — *Al-Ittihad* today reports that a Palestinian delegation representing the five Palestinian organizations that recently attended the meetings on Palestinian reconciliation in Tunisia will leave for Moscow to brief the Soviet leaders on the latest developments on Palestinian national unity and the convening of the PNC.

Citing a Palestinian official, *Al-Ittihad* says the delegation will again ask the Soviet Union to mediate with Syria and the other Palestinian organizations to bring about Palestinian national unity and to convene a PNC that is attended by all the Palestinian factions.

Al-Ittihad adds that another delegation will leave for Sanaa soon for a similar purpose.

WAKH: PLO's Hani al-Hasan Arrives in Amman

JN250917 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Amman, 25 Oct (WAKH) — Hani al-Hasan, adviser to the PLO Executive Committee chairman for political affairs, arrived in Amman last night from Kuwait. According to informed Palestinian sources, Al-Hasan will discuss with Jordanian officials the outcome of contacts held by the Egyptian and Kuwaiti Governments with the Jordanians and Palestinians. Al-Hasan's talks will center on future Jordanian-Palestinian relations, the sources added.

WAKH: Al-Hasan on Visit

JN261013 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0710 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 Oct (WAKH) — Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, has said that the purpose of his current visit to Amman is to hold contacts with Jordanian officials. He emphasized the vital importance of Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

In a statement published today in *Al-Ittihad*, Hani al-Hasan stated that time and events have demonstrated and continue to demonstrate daily to all the Arab leaders that it is difficult to bypass the PLO and that despite all the circumstances, the PLO continues to be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people around which all sectors of the Palestinian people everywhere rally.

Hani al-Hasan stressed that the PLO firmly believes in the need to develop and strengthen relations with Jordan. He declared: The Jordanian people cannot do without the Paestinian people, and the Palestinian people cannot do without or abandon the Jordanian people.

PLO Issues Appeal on Conditions in Israeli Jails

JN242030 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1813 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] The PLO issued a statement yesterday in which it appealed to the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] and all the legal institutions that protect the rights of detainees to halt the oppression and killings in Al-Fari'ah and other Zionist jails, which constitute a series of fascist and criminal violations against our prisoners and detainees in the abhorrent Zionist prisons. The following is the text of the statement:

During the past few weeks, the Israeli occupation's prisons witnessed an open hunger strike that lasted several weeks and expressed our heroic prisoners' rejection of the authority's barbaric treatment and protest over the inhuman practices against our heroic brother detainees. After the end of the strike and the Zionist submission to some of our prisoners' humanitrian demands, which were less than the minimum human rights, the Zionist occupation authorities took revenge on our prisoners. On 21 October 1986, these authorities launched a criminal aggression against the Al-Fari'ah prison, which houses nearly 300 detainees, mostly young men and juveniles under 16. Army forces stormed the prison and arrested 11 detainees on the pretext of being the leaders of the detainees. They inflicted the most severe forms of physical torture on them. Afterward, they began to assault the rest of the heroic detainees, which led to violent clashes, especially after these forces opened machine gun fire and hurled tear gas and high-explosive bombs in the prison corridors. As a result, 53 prisoners sustained various injuries, some of them serious.

This new crime by the Zionist occupation authorities expresses the racist barbarism and fascist Israeli criminal oppression of our heroic detainees. While drawing the attention of all international and human institutions to the nature of this criminal aggression, which violates the minimum level of human rights and especially those of young detainees, the PLO urges the ICRC and all the legal institutions that protect the rights of detainees to halt the oppression and killings in Al-Fari'ah and other Israeli prisons, which constitute a series of fascist and criminal violations against our prisoners and detainees in the abhorrent Zionist prisons. The PLO also urges all international institutions to stand by our Palestinian people in confronting these Zionist, fascist, criminal practices. It is a revolution until victory.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister on OPEC's Future Plans

LD242308 Kuwait KUNA in English 2002 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 24 (KUNA) — Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Adbi al-Sabah said here Friday that Kuwait had sought within OPEC's recent conference in Geneva to realize two purposes, adjustment of the country's oil production quota and to see to it that Kuwait's past sacrifices would not be imposed upon it nor become an inherent right for others.

Speaking to journalists on return here this evening from London, where he addressed an oil conference there, after attending the Geneva OPEC 17-day meeting, the official expressed satisfaction that Kuwait was able to attain the first goal.

He hoped that the remaining part can be covered at the upcoming OPEC meeting in Geneva, scheduled for next December 11.

The recent OPEC conference in Geneva has agreed to raise Kuwait's daily crude output from a present 900,000 barrels to 999,000 barrels per day until the end of this year.

The official indicated that all studies showed that Kuwait's output share was far less judging by all criteria, including social factors such as population figures, and that the country had been making sacrifices over the past 25 years.

"We will not hesitate to offer sacrifices in the future, if need be," Shaykh al-Khalifa pledged, adding "but what really bothers us is the call by some that these sacrifices be the new basis for working out Kuwait's share."

"This is totally unacceptable to us under any terms," he emphasized, arguing that if unity of OPEC is to be maintained, all should make sacrifices and such sacrifices should be appreciated rather than turned into a burden on the side making it.

Shaykh al-Khalifa expected that the task of the next OPEC Ministerial Council would be difficult, urging preparations for it to start from now, and believed that the world oil market can absorb the 200,000 bpd rise in OPEC's current overall ceiling of 17 million bpd.

QNA Cites UAE Petroleum Minister on Oil Quota

JN270904 Doha QNA in Arabic 0720 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Oct (QNA) — Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, has stressed that his country will abide by the recent OPEC resolutions that fixed the UAE's quota at 950,000 barrels per day and that his country has informed the competent quarters and operating companies to produce according to the new quota.

In a statement to *Al-Ittihad*, published here today, Al-'Utaybah said the UAE's acceptance of the temporary arrangements, which will end by the end of this year, does not mean it has abandoned its call for a just quota commensurate with the criteria drawn up at OPEC's recent meeting. He ruled out a price war at present, but stressed that OPEC will not cease demanding a fair share in the oil market and that it is currently trying to reconcile between a fair share and an appropriate price as fixed by the organization. This price ranges between $17 and $19 per barrel as a short-term objective that may be acceptable to OPEC and non-OPEC oil-producing countries.

In this regard, the minister suggested holding another meeting for the oil ministers of both OPEC and other oil-producing countries, particularly when OPEC begins to deal with the subject of prices. He added that fixing and defending prices should not be OPEC's responsibility as was the case in the past, indicating that OPEC lost hundreds of billions of dollars during the last few years as a result of this policy.

INTER-GULF AFFAIRS

Oman's Al-'Alawi Comments on GCC Summit

JN261207 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1015 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Muscat, 26 Oct (WAKH) — Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, said that the seventh GCC summit will be held at a time when the region is facing very complicated issues. In a statement to Muscat radio before his departure for Abu Dhabi to take part in the GCC Ministerial Council's meetings, Yusuf Al-'Alawi said that the papers to be submitted to the summit are bound deal with these issues. He added that the preparatory session of the summit will discuss various political issues that will be submitted to to the coming summit, indicating that the Iraq-Iran war which has reached a dangerous and complicated stage and which is not heading toward a peaceful settlement is one of the most important issues. The said that the Gulf states must study this war in a manner that guarantees their common interests.

On the joint cooperation among GCC states, the Omani minister for foreign affairs said that several papers on the economic, security, and joint defense will be submitted to the summit and that these papers have been discussed by various committees. The Omani minister expressed hope that the GCC foreign ministers will submit useful recommendations that will serve the common interests of the GCC states.

In reply to a question on whether there is a GCC intention to establish joint industrial and agricultural projects that meet some of the requirements of the region, he said: The previous summits issued decisions that advocate the establishment of joint economic projects. He added that the objectives of economic cooperation have been the focus of detailed and deep discussions by various ministerial committees, adding that the results of the discussions, deliberations, and the studies performed by the various committees will be discussed at this preparatory meeting and submitted to the summit.

Saudi Minister's Arrival, Statement

JN261223 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1040 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 26 Oct (WAKH) — [passage omitted] Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and the accompanying delegation also arrived in Abu Dhabi this afternoon. He was received at the airport by Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid, Foreign Ministry under secretary, 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bishara, GCC secretary general, and Salih al-Sulayman al-Fawzan, Saudi ambassador to the UAE.

In a statement upon his arrival, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said he expected the seventh summit to add another brick in the building of Gulf joint action. He noted that the summit will discuss several important issues, especially in the field of joint cooperation, the evaluation of the previous phase, and charting plans for the forthcoming phase. He expressed satisfaction with the achievements of the previous phase in the economic, political, and security fields. He said he expected the summit to approve the economic agreements programming and indicated that there were several steps which were undertaken in the various economic and trade fields, such as allowing GCC citizens to contribute to the lending funds.

On the political level, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal indicated that coordination between the GCC states is continuing with the aim of attaining the interests of these states under the current difficult circumstances in the Arab region. He said he expected the summit to have a political character, concentrating on Arab issues, foremost of which are the Palestine question and the Iraq-Iran war. He expressed satisfaction with what had been achieved in the security field so far. He said that there will be a new endeavor to achieve cooperation in security among the region's states.

To a question on efforts by the GCC states to end the Iraq-Iran war and as to whether there would be new efforts in this regard, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that the efforts of the GCC states have not ceased to stop this dangerous war which threatens dire consequences and is wasting the capabilities of both Iraq and Iran. He said the GCC states have not spared any effort to stop this war. He said he hoped the efforts of the GCC states will be positively received, noting that Iraq had expressed willingness to stop the war. He said: We hope that Iran will respond to the efforts aimed at resolving this conflict. On the call of the Arab foreign ministers conference, which concluded its meetings in Tunis on Sunday, to convene an Arab summit, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal affirmed the importance of convening this summit under the current circumstances which he described as very bad. He said that the convocation of the summit with the minimum degree of success is urgent and necessary. He urged the Arab countries to respond to the efforts aimed at clearing the Arab atmospheres and resolving current differences to pave the way for success for the expected summit. [passage omitted]

'Closed' Session Held

JN271014 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0815 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Oct (WAKH) — The GCC foreign ministers concluded their second plenary session here a short while ago and began a closed session attended only by the ministers, GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, the assistant secretaries, and Military Committee Chairman Major General Yusuf al-Madani. During the plenary session the ministers completed their discussion of topics on the economy, human affairs, and the environment. During the closed session they will discuss political, security, and defense issues.

Ministers End 'Closed' Session

JN271016 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Oct (WAKH) — A short while ago, the GCC foreign ministers concluded their closed working session which was held after the second expanded session this morning. This session was attended by GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, the assistant secretaries, and Military Committee Chairman Major General Yusuf al-Madani.

Qatar's Al Thani on GCC, Gulf War

JN271029 Doha QNA in Arabic 0715 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Doha, 27 Oct (QNA) — Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani has expressed satisfaction over the coordination achieved within the GCC in the political, economic, and military fields. He added: We are proud now that the GCC speaks with one voice in all international circles. The Qatari minister said that the tankers' war has a bad, serious effect on the Iraq-Iran war. He affirmed that this problem affects the world economy — which is linked with the Gulf area — before it affects the GCC states themselves. He added that this problem must be solved within the international community.

On the cooperation progress between the GCC states and the EEC, the Qatari minister said in a statement to Qatari *Al-Rayah* published today that this cooperation is proceeding in a good and positive way. He welcomed the opening of broader horizons for this cooperation as long as it serves joint interests. The Qatari minister linked the success of this cooperation to the important international position of the Gulf states, whose economic influence is strongly linked to Europe's strategic interests in the region. The minister expressed hope that this cooperation will increase in benefitting Arabs' basic issues.

On the Palestine question, the Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs expressed his support for convening an international conference to achieve peace in the Middle East as long as the conference achieves the just Arab demands stipulated in the Fes plan. His excellency called on Palestinians to unite and cooperate to gain more support and strength for their cause and achievements. On the Lebanese problem, the Qatari minister expressed Qatar's readiness to play any role to save Lebanon from its exhausting problems since it was a symbol of peace and security. He expressed support for the idea of holding a national dialogue among the various Lebanese factions as a basis for ending the war and establishing peace in Lebanon.

His excellency called for considering higher Arab interests above any other considerations. He called on all Arabs to place this objective before them because it is the only way to solve all of our problems in the Arab world. He also called on all Arabs to avoid differences and disputes in order to achieve solidarity which is the real umbrella protecting the Arab world from challenges and plots.

GCC News Center Begins Operations in Manama

JN251210 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1128 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Manama, 25 Oct (WAKH) — The news collection center of the GCC states begins its operations at WAKH headquarters in Manama today. The pool's objectives and tasks include collecting information, news, reports, and analyses about the GCC states and highlighting activities and developments in the Arab Gulf states. The news pool was established in accordance with the recommendations of the second meeting of the directors general of news agencies [of the GCC States], which was held at the GCC Secretariat's headquarters in Riyadh from 13-14 September. The press center complements the television pool in Kuwait and the mobile center for joint radio broadcasting — the voice of the Cooperation Council. The press center is now carrying out its work under the daily supervision of WAKH and the GCC Secretariat.

BAHRAIN

Paper Says Britain Paves Way for Israeli Attack

JN250936 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0909 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Excerpt] Manama, 25 Oct (WAKH) — [Passage omitted] The Bahraini weekly newspaper *Al-Adwa'* warns that the signs of planning by the United States and Israel, backed by Britain, to launch a war of aggression against Syria have begun to appear. *Al-Adwa'* says that such planning gives Israel a golden opportunity to expand and exercise political, military, and economic control over the region, particularly in the present circumstances when Arabs are preoccupied with the Iraqi-Iranian war.

The paper says the British courts were hasty in their verdict on the attempt to blow up an Israeli plane and in stressing the role of the Syrian intelligence service in abetting and engineering the action. *Al-Adwa'* asserts that Britain has created all the conditions for Israel to commit aggression against Syria by expelling the Syrian ambassador to Britain and asking its nationals to leave Syria. The paper asks if the region can bear all such explosive situations in addition to the war raging in the Arabian Gulf. *Al-Adwa'* also expresses regret that all the efforts which have been made and are being made by Saudi Arabia to end inter-Arab differences have been wasted, for artificial side differences among the Arabs persist, thus allowing the Israeli enemy to steadily expand.

Egyptian Information Minister Arrives in Manama

JN251935 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1750 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Manama, 25 Oct (WAKH) — Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and his delegation arrived in Manama this evening on an official visit of several days to Bahrain at the invitation of Bahraini Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad. During the visit, the information minister will hold talks with his Bahraini counterpart on bilateral cooperation, particularly in the field of information.

Amir Receives Egyptian Minister

JN260816 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0625 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Manama, 26 Oct (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifah, the Amir of Bahrain, has received a written message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on bilateral relations and current developments in the Arab arena. The message was conveyed to his highness by Egyptian Information Minister Muhammad Safwat al-Sharif, who is currently visiting Bahrain when he was received by his highness the amir of Bahrain in Manama this morning.

During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations and issues of common interest. The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Abd al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad, Bahraini information minister;

Shaykh 'Isa ibn Rashid al Khalifah, Information Ministry under secretary; and Muhammad Mahmud abu Zayd, head of the Egyptian Interests Section in Bahrain.

KUWAIT

Missiles Fired at Aircraft off Kubbar Island

LD261209 Kuwait KUNA in English 1152 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 26 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti anti-aircraft fired two missiles at a flying target last night off the Kubbar Island ten miles from Ahmadi area to the south of Kuwait, chief of staff of the Kuwaiti Army Maj. Gen. 'Abdallah Faraj al-Ghanim said Sunday. He told KUNA that the target, the nature of which [words indistinct] known, disappeared from the radar screens after a second missile was fired against it.

The chief of staff pointed out that the incident took place at 1005 p.m. (local time) yesterday and noted that the first missile was fired while the target was ten miles north of the Ahmadi area and the second when it was four miles away. He added that the target disappeared after the second rocket was fired against it and a survey of territorial waters in that area did not find anything.

The radar screens detected the target but could not ascertain its identity, Maj. Gen. al-Ghanim said, attributing that to prevailing darkness and the small size object that appeared on the screens. He stressed, however, that only one target was monitored on the screen and noted "I cannot tell for sure whether the target was hit or not since the search for wreckage is still going on and nothing was so far discovered."

He underlined that the target was heading to the Shvaiba area. The chief of staff affirmed that the air defenses have clear instructions to engage any target that exceeds the suspicion line. He explained that the suspicion line follows an earlier line of distinction and added that when the target reaches the former it should be obstructed either by interceptors or air defense.

"We are prepared and we have the right to defend our air space," Al-Ghanim asserted, adding "our men are watchful day and night and any target appearing on the radar is detectable and when it reaches a dangerous zone the air defenses are clearly instructed to engage that target."

Press Comments on Severing of UK-Syrian Ties

LD251254 Kuwait KUNA in English 0808 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 25 (KUNA) — Two local dailies commented here Saturday on the British move of severing diplomatic relations with Syria, and U.S. support to such a move by withdrawing its ambassador from Damascus. The British move yesterday followed the conviction in London of Jordanian citizen Nizar Hindawi for trying to blow up an Israeli airliner last April.

Daily *"Al-Ra'y al-'Amm"* in a front page editorial said that Western departments to combat spies are repeatedly trying hard to use the Arabs names in any trials or investigations to prove the Arabs involvement in terrorism operations. The paper added that the fabrication of such charges needs specialized apparatus, citing as an example the Israeli Mossad and its western collaborators. Israel had prepared this scheme to direct a new attack against Syria, exactly as what it had done to invade Lebanon in June 1982, following the assassination of the Israeli ambassador to London, the paper asserted. *"Al-Ra'y al-'Amm"* warned that all the Arabs could be the target of such schemes one day, as long as "a great state" like Britain severed ties for such a minor operation, which Syria had repeatedly denied its involvement in.

Kuwait's daily *"Al-Siyasah"* pointed out that the British action is not a new measure because Margaret Thatcher's government is always the first among European states in backing U.S. and Israeli plots, drawn against the Arabs. The daily added that the British prime minister's support to the U.S. aggression against Libya last April 15 helped to confirm her image as "an iron lady". *"Al-Siyasah"* warned that such an act by Britain draws many question marks, as every one knows the British diplomacy will not commit such action unless it is an introduction for bigger developments. Tackling the new Israeli Government, the daily said that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir inaugurated his ruling era, by talking about the war against Syria, and called on Syria to face the international pressure by being more flexible with Arabs and to cut down its previous conditions to attend the Arab summit.

PDRY

Former President 'Ali Nasir Vows to Return

NC251426 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Beirut, 25 Oct (MENA) — Former PDRY President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, who was toppled during last January's events in Aden, has said the time has come to declare openly that he will return there, as it has become difficult to reach a political settlement through dialogue. In addition, the rulers in Aden have shown in the last 8 months that all political solutions are unacceptable to them. He did not rule out the use of force to engineer his return. In an interview to be published on Monday by the Lebanese magazine *Al-Shira'*, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad revealed that officials in Aden have recently moved some of their troops from the east toward the borders with North Yemen, an act he described as provocative.

In a report from the Al-Wihdah camp, one of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's facilities in Al-Bayda', an area of the YAR near the PDRY frontier, the magazine said that of the roughly 50,000 refugees there, half are being trained to use weapons against different types of land, sea, and air defenses. They are also said to be waiting for the decision [to return to the PDRY] after receiving aid from Syria, Libya, and Algeria.

Al-Bid Receives USSR, WFTU Officials

EA242208 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the secretary general of the YSP Central Committee met in his office this morning with

Brother Humayd Jallud, the secretary general of the International Federation of Arab Trade Unions, who is attending the fifth congress of the General Federation of the Republic's Trade Unions. [passage omitted]

The brother secretary general also met in his office (Yuriy Torisov), secretary of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions [AUCCTU] of the Soviet Union, who briefed him on the activities of the AUCCTU and its stand alongside the activities and struggles of the workers of the world for freedom and the social progress. (Torisov) expressed the gratification of the Soviet trade unions for the steps and the measures adopted by the PDRY party and government for the purpose of overcoming the effects of the tragic incidents of January. He stressed the solidarity of Soviet workers with the struggle of our people under the leadership of their YSP for defending the gains of the revolution and the sovereignty of the country and the implementation of economic and social development plans.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid stressed the importance of strengthening and developing the long standing relations between democratic Yemen and the friendly Soviet Union and the General Federation of the Republics Workers Trade Unions and the AUCCTU in the interests of the workers and the toilers of the two friendly countries. The brother secretary general also met (Kachmere Siegfriedlin) secretary [position as heard] of the WFTU, who is participating in the fifth congress of the General Federation of the Republics Trade Unions. During the meeting, they reviewed the militant relations existing between the General Federation in our country and the WFTU and ways of developing and strengthening them.

USSR's Aliyev, Nu'man Discuss Relations

EA261603 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
0330 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Comrade Geydar Aliyev, member of the CPSU Politburo and Soviet first deputy prime minister, arrived in Aden last night. He was met at the airport by Brothers Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Central Committee and Central Committee secretary; Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers; a number of other officials; and Comrade Albert Rachkov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet ambassador in Aden.

A meeting was held between brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man and Comrade Geydar Aliyev. As the meeting opened, the brother chairman of the Council of Ministers welcomed Comrade Aliyev, stressing that the meeting was taking place on the eve of the 7th anniversary of the signing of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries, a treaty that opened the doors to reinforcing the militant relations between Democratic Yemen and the USSR and served the principles and joint aims of the two friendly parties and peoples. Dr Nu'man emphasized that Soviet-Yemeni relations were firm, strategic and constantly developing in light of that treaty. He highly appreciated the honest internationalist support that had been, and was continuing to be provided, by the USSR to our country, and which has greatly and effectively contributed toward reinforcing the base of our democratic nationalist regime. He expressed the pride of our people, party and state at the level reached by those developing relations.

In a comradely atmosphere, a review took place of bilateral relations in various fields of common interest as well as of the development of the current Arab and international situations. For his part Comrade Aliyev, on the basis of the militant relations linking both friendly countries, reaffirmed Soveit support for our country at various levels so as to ensure its continual development and to overcome all the difficulties and challenges that confront it. The meeting was attended by brother Fadil Muhsin 'Abdallah, member of the Political Bureau and Central Committee secretary; and Comrade Rachkov, Soviet ambassador in Aden.

Al-'Attas Receives Polish Official

EA262059 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
0330 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, yesterday evening received at the Secretariat of the Presidium, Comrade (Yorvo Chakovski), member of the Political Bureau of the Polish United Workers Party [PZPR] and deputy chairman of the Polish Council of State, who at the beginning of the meeting, conveyed to the former the greetings of Comrade Wojciech Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR and chairman of the Polish Council of State. In a cordial and comradely atmosphere the two sides reviewed relations between the two friendly countries and the importance of strengthening them so as to serve the joint aims in the struggle against imperialism, racism and zionism and for serving the causes of freedom, progress, democracy and peace in the world and the interests of the two friendly peoples.

Brother Engineer Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas also briefed the Polish guest on the nature of the current developments in Democratic Yemen following the bloody 13 January incidents, the steps taken by the party and state to overcome their aftermath in various fields, and the general efforts exerted to reinforce our democratic nationalist regime. Views were also exchanged on the current situations in the Arab and international arenas and the attitude of the two countries towards them. Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas stressed the eagerness of our party and state to develop relations with the Polish People's Republic and expanding their scope in various fields. He asked him to convey warm comradely greetings to Comrade Jaruzelski.

For his part, the Polish guest expressed his pleasure at meeting the brother chairman of the Presidium, stressing that the meeting would contribute toward strengthening the relations between the two friendly countries. He expressed Poland's solidarity with our country's efforts to overcome all the difficulties facing it as a result of the tragic January incidents and the conspiracies being hatched against it with the aim of harming its experiment and its national and internationalist options. He expressed confidence in the ability of our people, party and state to overcome all those conspiracies and difficulties. He pointed out that the firm principled stand of the friendly socialist states, including friendly socialist Poland in support of Democratic Yemen represents a strong prop for Democratic Yemen's experiment.

The meeting was attended by Brothers Brigadier Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, member of the Political Bureau, first deputy chairman of the prime minister an minister of interior; Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister; and 'Abd al-Wakil Sururi, candidate member of the Central Committee and our nonresident ambassador to the Polish People's Republic.

Foreign Minister Departs for Machel Funeral

EA262134 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Summary] Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, the foreign minister, left Aden today for Mozambique to participate in the funeral of the late President Machel. "Democratic Yemen's participation in the funeral of the prominent African nationalist fighter, Comrade Samora Machel, comes as an acknowledgement by the Yemeni people of the national and internationalist role played by Machel — that man who gave his life for the sake of his motherland's liberation and progress, serving the causes of the African people's and freedom, progress and peace in the world. It is worth mentioning here that Democratic Yemen has proclaimed 3 days of mourning to mark the demise of the fighter, President Samora Machel."

Reply Message Sent To USSR Leaders' Cable

EA250005 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP Central Committee Secretary general, and Haydar abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, have sent a cable of thanks to the Soviet leadership in reply to the congratulatory cable sent by the Soviet leadership on the occasion of the 23d anniversary of the 14 October glorious revolution.

It reads: We received with profound pleasure your warm comradely congratulations on the occasion of the 23d anniversary of the 14 October glorious revolution. While we thank you for the contents of your congratulatory message to us, namely comradely feelings toward our party and people, we express to you our pride in the relations that bind our two countries. We are confident that the future will witness the further strengthening of those strategic relations in a way that will serve the principles and aims of our two friendly parties. We seize this opportunity to highly appreciate your country's stands and its internationalist solidarity and honest support for our country in our struggle to continue our revolutionary experiment of socialist horizons, confronting imperialist and reactionary challenges which are trying to encroach on the achievements of our revolution.

From the bottom of our hearts we wish you, dear comrades, abundant health and happiness; to your friendly people, further progress; and for the relations between our two countries, continued development. Comrades 'Ali Salim al-Bid and Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas also sent two similar cables of thanks to the Vietnamese and Mongolian leaderships in reply to their congratulatory cables on the anniversary of the 14 October glorious revolution.

QATAR

Papers Criticize British Move Against Syria

JN260956 Doha QNA in Arabic 0750 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Doha, 26 Oct (QNA) — In their editorials today the Qatari papers denounce Britain's decision to sever diplomatic relations with Syria. The papers assert that the British action is the result of a calculated and preplanned plot carried out by Mosad and the U.S. intelligence service to distort the image of struggling Syria which is firmly confronting Israel's expansionist policy in the area.

Al-'Arab says that the British decision is not a preventive measure against the alleged Syrian role in abetting so-called terrorism, but signifies that there is a plot with bigger objectives whose target is fraternal Syria in particular and the Arab nation in general. The paper says that the provocative British decision has clearly revealed the extent of Britain's subservience to the United States and casts doubt on the credibility of independent British decision- making and British policy in general toward the Third World.

Al-'Arab refers to Britain's imperialist role in contemporary Arab history and recalls that it was Britain that made the Balfour Declaration that promised a group of terrorists and murderers in Zionist gangs in Europe an Arab land where they can establish a racist entity that could be used as a bridgehead to secure Britain's return to the region. It was Britain that plundered the resources of the colonies for more than 2 centuries, the paper adds. In conclusion the paper asserts that the plot that is being exposed step by step makes it incumbent on the Arab nation to shoulder its responsibilities in supporting Syria and firmly opposing the plot in defense of Arab dignity.

Al-Khalij al-Yawm maintains that Britain's accusation that Syria engineered the drama of the Israeli El Al plane is a carefully prearranged plan carried out by Britain in conjunction with Mosad and the U.S. intelligence service with the aim of distorting Syria's image. This is being done because Syria is firmly opposed to Israel's expansionist policies in the region. Britain's accusation will give the terrorist Shamir a pretext for his planned imminent aggression against Syria will provide justification for its support and U.S. support for such an aggression. The severing of ties will also be used to justify the planning of such an aggression and participation in its execution.

The paper says that the inflammation of the British stand at this particular time signifies that the forthcoming period in the Arabs' relations with the imperialist West will be characterized by further tension, anxiety, and instability. The British stand further indicates that preference will be given to the interests of the Zionist state over all the just rights of the Arabs. *Al-Khalij al-Yawm* says that Britain's imperialist policy is hostile to Arab rights and totally biased toward Israel, and is subservient to U.S. directives.

The English-language paper *Gulf Times* contends that the Arab League secretary general was right when he accused Israel of instigating Britain to sever its diplomatic relations with Syria, following the verdict in the Nizar al-Hindawi case. The paper says that Britain's hastiness in severing relations with Syria and the fact that the decision coincided with the sentencing of Al-Hindawi suggests that external pressure has been exerted on Britain. The paper says that the withdrawal of the U.S. ambassador from Damascus indicates that there is a prearranged scenario between London and Washington.

Gulf Times notes that the rejoicing of the pro-Zionist members of the British parliament at Britain's decision indicates that the only parties that stand to gain from this regrettable affair are Israel and one of the great powers that plans for Israel. The paper asserts that by such conduct Israel is determined to spoil Arab-European relations and expresses the hope that the European states whose relations with the area countries have been characterized by wisdom will not be dragged behind Israeli goals.

Gulf Times praises the Syrian reaction to the British measure. The paper says that Syria's actions in this affair and the statements by Syrian officials to the BBC indicate that Syria regrets the British step without indulging in emotional reactions. The paper calls for a show of Arab solidarity with Syria, the Arab country that stands in the forefront of the struggle to confront the Zionist enemy, for any harm that befalls the Syrian people is directed against the entire Arab nation. In conclusion *Gulf Times* says that the decision of the Thatcher government to sever relations with Syria was unwise and the future will prove this to be true.

UAE

Britain's Decision on Syria 'Premeditated'

JN250812 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0618 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 25 Oct (WAM) — The newspaper *Al-Khalij* has strongly criticized the British Government for serving ties with Syria, affirming this measure was premeditated and well-planned and had been sought regardless of means. The paper noted that in international diplomatic norms, severing of ties is usually preceded by a long series of measures. The paper says: Britain would not have dared to sever relations with an Arab state if it expected an Arab reaction in proportion to its hostile step. This shows Britain'scontempt of the countries concerned and the regional group to which they belong — namely, Arab states, the Arab league, and Arab declarations of solidarity.

In its editorial entitled "There Once Were Arabs," the paper directed its anger at the current Arab situation and conditions and said: In fact, the problem will not stop with Britain taking measures against an Arab state; what is at issue now is the violated Arab sovereignty and the small stature of Arab states which can now be overlooked by any state in the world if it finds this to be in its interests. The paper added: The issue at hand is the insignificance of Arab states. Nations once vied with each other to establish relations with them and not anger or provoke them. But the Arabs have moved from a position of punishing states, regardless of their size, if they harmed pan-Arab causes, to a position where fourth-rate or fifth-rate states, such as Costa Rica, the Ivory Coast, or Zaire, do not car whether Arabs sever relations or maintain them. The paper recalled how the Arab states severed relations with the United States, which participated in the 1967 aggression against the Arabs. It recalled how the Arab states stopped the flow of oil to all those who supported the Zionist enemy in October 1973, and how the Arab states punished the FRG for its payment of reparations to Israel.

The paper concluded: The Arabs should recall those days which seem so far away in history. In those days we had a present and a hope for a future.

U.S. 'Crusade' Behind U.K. Move

JN271232 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0650 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 27 Oct (WAM) — *Al-Khalij* stresses in its editorial today that Washington's admission of coordination with Britain over the recent steps against Syria reveals the existence of a crusade campaign led by the United States against all the Third World countries. This campaign is directing most of its hatred and plots against the Arabs. The paper adds that this admission does not surprise us because the relations between Washington and London make the lady of 10 Downing street an obedient subservient to the master of the White House. The party which takes part in a military aggression against an Arab country will not hesitate to respond positively to Washington's orders, to express enthusiasm toward them, and even to sever relations with an Arab country. The paper says: Both Thatcher and Reagan skillfully represent the interests and monopolies of industry and finance. Both are also the legitimate sons of the Western right-wing school overwhelmed by the thinking and ethics of colonialists and racists who establish their view of people on the basis of their norms, color, and religions.

Al-Khalij warns that the new crusade campaign led by Reagan is in reality a continuation of a firm and clear policy which has taken various forms since the beginning of the century. It took the form of military occupation, mandate, establishing a strange state in the center of the Arab homeland, cultural invasion, and launching an aggression against an Arab country as well as severing relations in order to label the Arabs with terrorism. The paper urged the Arab nation to adopt an Arab stand toward the current challenge. It says: It is a real war whether we like or not. There is a challenge ahead and we have to face it if we want to be masters of our heomelands and if we want to safeguard our dignity and pride.

On the other hand, *Al-Wahdah* newspaper comments in a news analysis by the political editor on the British decision to sever relations with Syria by saying that the Margaret Thatcher government affirms anew that it is chained by the American White House policy. The decision adopted against Syria is a U.S.-Zionist one because the U.S. Administration and the Israeli Government are leading the anti-Arab campaign through the European allies and U.S. partners within NATO. The paper continues: The U.S. Administration was the first to back the British decision and was followed by its subservient state, Canada. Washington then began an organized campaign and urgent pressures on the European allies to impose a comprehensive boycott against Syria as a prelude to a comprehensive aggression against the Arabs.

Al-Wahdah says: The official open and covert U.S. move came as a result of an intensified campaign launched and organized by the Zionist lobby inside the U.S. Congress and all U.S. decisionmaking institutions. A few hours after the British decision was announced, 19 prominent congressmen urged their government to impose economic sanctions against Syria. These sanctions are summarized in severing comprehensive economic relations and all air and sea links as well as calling on the U.S. allies to follow suit. In its news analysis, the paper adds: Robert Dole, the leader of the Republican majority in Congress, was among the first to call for punishing Syria. He told President Reagan: "We struck at Libya and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her government stood to our side. We now have to find means to support the British efforts aimed at responding to this new challenge of international terrorism." It seems that the Zionist lobby and Israel's supporters inside Congress are now moving swiftly and with high efficiency to control matters inside the U.S. decisionmaking institutions in order to win the battle against the Arabs and to give Israel further strength and confidence in its aggression against the Arab nation. *Al-Wahdah* warns that President Reagan has no other option but to move within this framework so that he will also win the U.S. elections next month. The paper discloses that the timing of Al-Hindawi's trial and the announcement of the verdict was in fact a prelude to an economic, political, and media war against the Arabs to prepare for a military aggression against some Arab countries to change the features of the conflict and to create political alternatives and new situation in the region in order to hasten the U.S. political solution so that the White House master will always be victorious with support from the Jews and world Zionism.

NDP Sources Predict 'Major' Cabinet Reshuffle

NC251129 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Citing sources in Egypt's ruling party, the NDP, the UAE newspaper *Al-Khalij* reports that a major cabinet reshuffle is in the offing in Egypt. Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi is expected to be replaced by Dr Yusuf Wali, minister of industry [as heard] and secretary general of the NDP. According to the paper, President Mubarak met yesterday with Dr Wali and asked him to begin consultations on forming a new government capable of dealing with the country's current economic crisis.

Mubarak Holds 'Expanded' Cabinet Meeting

NC251644 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Excerpts] President Husni Mubarak held an expanded meeting this afternoon attended by the prime minister; the deputy prime minister; the ministers of information, social affairs, transport, electricity, cabinet affairs, industry, petroleum, economy, culture, higher education, and the interior; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, head of the President's Office for Political Affairs. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif reported that Mubarak had underlined the desire to promote and develop relations between Egypt and Jordan in all political and economic fields. The president had also stressed the importance of designating targets for 1987 and increasing the volume of trade exchange between the two countries. [passage omitted]

The president then discussed a number of domestic issues. He referred to work performance, emphasizing the importance of coordination among various organizations and establishments in the area of development and service projects. He also demanded that the citizens be frankly informed about problems. They will then be able to ascertain the sincerity of the action taken and help to confront and overcome these problems. The citizens will also not become prey for doubts and rumors. President Mubarak then referred to the second 5-year plan. He underlined the importance of its completion in order to present it to the People's Assembly at the appropriate time.

Mubarak Meets Al-Rifa'i; Objects to Settlements

NC251540 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has affirmed Egypt's objection to any expansion in building settlements in the occupied Arab territories. He said that Egypt has already condemned this through its foreign minister. The president noted that the international peace conference had been the main problem before Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres had finally agreed to it. This constitutes an Israeli commitment, he added. If it is not fulfilled, it will affect the entire situation. The president concluded his statement by saying that he believes Yitzhaq Shamir to be fully aware of this. President Mubarak made these remarks following his meeting with Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister of Jordan and head of his country's delegation to meetings of the Higher Egyptian-Jordanian Joint Committee.

'Wait and See' Attitude on Shamir

NC251601 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA) — Following his meetings at Al-Qubbah Palace today, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak emphasized that the international peace conference is now an Israeli commitment. If anyone breaches this, it will mean going back on what was agreed at the Alexandria talks. He said: I do not believe that Mr Shamir is unaware of this. President Mubarak added: The international conference used to be the main problem. However, when the Israeli prime minister came to Egypt, he agreed to it. I was not meeting with him as Shim'on Peres only, but as Israel's prime minister.

Responding to a question on Shamir's repeated statements about Israel's policy of expanding settlements, President Mubarak said: The Israeli prime minister might have been making these statements on the occasion of assuming his new post. However, we will wait and see how serious they are. The president added: A clear policy has been formulated. I believe that the United States itself has objected to the issue of settlements. We most certainly object to them. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, had already spoken about this matter.

Journalist Comments on UK's Split With Syria

NC252130 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Interview with 'Abd al-Sattar al-Tawilah, deputy editor of the *Rose al-Yusuf* magazine, by unidentified radio correspondent on the "Newsreel Program;" date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] The U.S.-European stand against Syrian terrorism and Syria's involvement in terrorist actions could prove to be a very grave phenomenon. It presents a contrast to an earlier U.S. stand which took the form of a raid on Libya and a strike against its military installations. In that case, all of Europe showed reservations about such an action with the exception of Britain, which allowed U.S. planes to use its territory in the raid on Libyan targets. Now, however, the United States, Canada, and a number of other European countries also severed relations with Syria [as heard] as soon as Britain announced that it had done so. According to news reports, the U.S. Congress is calling for economic sanctions to be imposed against Syria. Why is this being done? Does it mean that there is irrefutable evidence of Syrian involvement in the recent terrorist operation? What is our Arab [word indistinct] while we are working to give an impetus to the peace efforts for the sake of the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights?

[Al-Tawilah] There must be question marks and conjectures which not only do not acquit the Syrian party, but make it at least subject to very strong suspicions. This is the first time that a measure has been taken as the result of [word indistinct] investigation. We cannot say that British justice is fake or that if falsifies events. It is a justice which depends on detailed investigations by Scotland Yard, as well as on the efforts of the prosecution, investigators, jurists, and public opinion. It is not secret or accusatory. All resources are made available to the accused to defend himself. The other point is that this measure was taken by Britain, which is a conservative country. It has absolutely no hostile relations with Syria. It is a member of a group of European countries which is following a course that is to a great extent favorable to the Arab world and the Arab issue.

We saw that when the U.S. aggression took place against Libya [words indistinct] and there was clamor in England. There were demonstrations, and the Labor Party took a stand against the British Government for merely allowing U.S. planes to fly toward the Libyan coast. All the Western countries, with the exception of Britain, strongly protested the U.S. action. But England must not have taken this stand without first giving it a great deal of thought. One must not label it with such words as U.S. intelligence, plot, the Mosad, and so forth.

Britain is very clearly linked by huge interests to the Arab world. It knows that Syria has relations with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, that it has certain [word indistinct] with Iraq, that it is part of the sensitive Middle East issue, and that it is involved in Lebanon. This means that it is not an isolated country like Libya, which is alone in the Arab arena and exposed to the world as a country that practices terrorism. By the way, Libyan television recently showed an execution and the trial [words indistinct] the trial took only 5 minutes and the accused was brought in with his hands tied behind his back. Syria has numerous relations and a special and sensitive position in the Arab region. This is why we must look at this British decision with a great deal of interest. We must not confuse the accusations like we used to do.

[Correspondent] That is right. What effect will all this have on the Palestinian issue?

[Al-Tawilah] The effect of this is naturally very clear. It is an extension of the policy pursued by some Arab countries; namely, marring the Arab reputation and massacring Palestinians. All this has been instigated by the Syrian regime and it cannot be absolved of it. This is why one can say that individual terrorist actions, which strong evidence shows the Syrians to have recently become involved in, are the most damaging for Arabs and the Palestinian issue.

Paper Condemns Terrorism

NC260002 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA) — [passage omitted] Under the headline "How Long Will the Arabs Remain Silent," the *Al-Ahram* newspaper says that the British decision to sever relations with Syria was announced hours after Jordanian national Nizar al-Hindawi was sentenced to 45 years in prison. He was convicted of attempting to blow up an Israeli airliner with the help of Syrian agents closely connected with the Syrian Embassy in London. This decision is a very important development in the increasing U.S.-European efforts to combat international terrorism. These efforts are part of a collective strategy which has been revealed by recent events.

It does not matter whether the charge against Syria is true as declared by the British judiciary, or false, as is claimed in the official Syrian denial, the paper adds. We strongly condemn all acts of terrorism which threaten the security of the international community, which forewarn of dire consequences threatening the future of international relations, and which pave the way to an undesirable escalation of terrorist activities. We condemn this regardless of claims and justifications. Although we acknowledge that all countries have the right to adopt measures that will strike at and crush international terrorism, *Al-Ahram* adds, we nevertheless are concerned that such events should not be taken as pretexts to poison the entire climate of Arab-European relations. They should not be used to hold the Arab nation as a whole responsible for whatever immoral actions one or two Arab regimes at most might carry out in support of terrorism. This would constitute a great injustice and intentionally distort the legitimacy of the just Arab struggle which seeks to restore rights and to establish peace and stability through legitimate means and according to the UN Charter. In conclusion, the paper wonders how long the Arabs will remain silent with regard to the conduct of those regimes that are not satisfied with simply supporting divisions and conflict on the Arab arena. They have taken their activities to unacceptable levels by working to eliminate international support for our just causes and by inciting world opinion to reject, to renounce, and to hate everything that is Arab despite the fact that the Arab nation is innocent of all these crimes and sins. [passage omitted]

Syrian, Libyan Intelligence Linked

NC262137 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1845 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Interview with 'Atif Al-Ghamri, Arab affairs editor for Cairo radio, by unidentified radio announcer on the "Newsreel Program," date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Various Western media have linked Brigadier General Muhammad al-Khawli, chief of the Syrian Air Force intelligence, with Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] and Iranian and Libyan radicals. Is it true that Abu Nidal is still alive, or is his name just being used as a facade? Why is Al-Khawli making contact with such groups and what would the Syrian regime hope to achieve by such contacts?

[Al-Ghamri] It is a fact that Abu Nidal has died of cancer. This is a conclusion which has been reached by many Arab and non-Arab sources, including the PLO itself. What this means is that Abu Nidal is no longer the name of a person leading a group but has become instead a facade used by certain Arab governments, chiefly Syria and Libya, to shift the blame for operations they themselves have undertaken to nonexistent Palestinian groups. As you may have noticed, the shadowy Abu Nidal always crops up after certain operations which harm Arab, and even Palestinian, interests.

For some time now, Syrian and Libyan intelligence have been using proxy names to claim responsibility for operations which they themselves have mounted. One example is the Arab Revolutionary Organization which claimed responsibility for several bombings in Egypt, including the blast at the Al-'Ataba Post Office in downtown Cairo. During the investigation, the culprits confessed to being members of Syrian intelligence.

The same thing holds true with Libya. An organization calling itself the Egyptian Revolution claimed responsibility for hijacking an Egyptair plane. When members of this group were interrogated, however, it was found that they were not even able to speak in the Egyptian dialect. This shows that such organizations exist only as a facade to conceal acts undertaken by Syrian and Libyan intelligence.

AL-WAFD Employees To Be Tried in Bribery Case

NC261932 Cairo MENA in English 1710 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Cairo, Oct 26 (MENA) — Sa'id 'Abd al-Khaliq, a journalist of *"Al-Wafd"* newspaper, mouthpiece of "Al-Wafd" party, Muhammad Ahmad Abu al-Fath, director of the department of advertisement at the paper, and Faruq 'Aql, a businessmen, were accused by North Cairo Prosecution for obtaining a sum of money illegally from 'Abd al-Rahman al-Baydani, Ex-vice president of [North] Yemen, [who] currently has a major investment enterprise in Egypt. Security forces have arrested them early this month, while mediating with Al-Baydani for the sum of one hundred thousand Egyptian pounds to stop the campaign launched by the paper to defame the Yemeni contractor. The prosecution will shortly announce the indictment that would clarify accusations of each of the three who will be brought before court later.

Weekly Urges Withdrawal From Nuclear Treaty

PM241351 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Oct 86 p 1

[Editorial: "Face Them With Maximum Strength"]

[Text] The *Sunday Times* report on Israeli nuclear armament, which we are publishing today, may not be a surprise to observers of Israeli affairs. But there is no doubt that it is the first detailed report showing how Israel has turned the Dimona reactor into a plant for the production of nuclear bombs, affirming that Israel has a number of nuclear bombs ranging between 100 and 200, and indicating that Israel considered the use of nuclear weapons when it was beaten in the October war; an American airlift was the alternative to this option. The report confirms France's help for Israel at the early stages [of building the reactor] and we have no doubt that the ban on the Americans from inspecting the nuclear reactor does not mean that they had no knowledge of this development. Indeed what happened during the October war confirms the Americans' knowledge of this fact, which has often been reported in the Western media in the past years.

As we publish this documentary report, we would recall the Socialist Labour Party's [SLP] stand during the Al-Sadat era when we opposed Egypt signing the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons when Israel refused to sign it so as to avoid the consequential inspection. We stressed at that time that this meant we were allowing Israel to proceed alone on the road to nuclear armament and so be able to impose its supremacy on the Arab region. We are not publishing the *Sunday Times* report today to spread fear and terror of Israel but to alert the the public in Egypt and to show our government the crime which it has committed against our national security since the Al-Sadat era and until now. Our government made a one-sided peace out of Camp David which is tantamount to surrender, while leaving our enemy armed to the teeth and able to strike at all fronts. We are not calling for tears to be shed over the past or sorrow to be shown, but we are calling for a responsible national stand to immediately bridge the gap between us and the Zionist enemy. Serious and continuous work will be capable of achieving nuclear balance. The government now has the right to announce the withdrawal of Egypt from the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Egypt does not lack the material resources or the scientists, who have forged their way forward in this field since the sixties and also participated in setting up the Iraqi nuclear reactor before it was hit, but it lacks the willpower and faith.

If Israel was behind the leak of this report (despite the official denial), there is no doubt that its aim is to intimidate, alarm, and further humiliate us. We would say that we only lack the willpower, belief in Allah and the recovery of our fighting spirit, the 6 October spirit, as referred to by newspapers, in order to confront this Zionist contentiousness and its evil plans.

This question is not subject to competition among political parties. We confront the regime with its responsibilities; we cannot treat the fate of our country, civilization, and also our right to a free life with such contempt because history will have its say and also the people will have their say. We know that the defeatists will say "didn't you see...we are not up to Israel," but we answer them with the words of Allah, the almighty: Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power [Koranic verse]. God is great. And long live the people.

Statement Issued on Djibouti Minister's Visit

NC241319 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1318 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA) — Egypt and Djibouti have expressed their belief that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East can be secured only through the complete recognition of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, including that of self-determination under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. The two countries stated that the agreement concluded by Jordan and the PLO in February 1985 is a positive and practical step toward settling the Palestinian issue. Egypt and Djibouti came out in favor of an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

These points were made in a joint statement released today. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, signed the document for Egypt, while Moumin Bahdon Farah, Djibouti's minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, dis so for his country. The declaration was issued at the end of an official visit to Egypt by the Djibouti minister and the members of his delegation. Their trip, which ran from 22 to 24 October, was at the invitation of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid.

In the document, Djibouti praises the efforts of Egyptian diplomacy to resolve the Palestinian question and bring security, stability, and peace to the Middle East. On the Gulf War, Egypt and Djibouti urged both Iraq and Iran to end the conflict between them, as it is a great drain on their resources, and hinders their attempts to make social and economic progress. The two states lauded Iraq's numerous initiatives to settle the dispute with Iran peacfully through dialogue. They urged the international community to make efforts to persuade Iran to respond to these overtures.

As for Lebanon, the two parties voiced their support for the legitimate government and the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the country. They noted that its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity must be respected, and they hailed UNIFIL's contribution to the maintenance of peace and security there.

Regarding African affairs, the statement points out that Egypt and Djibouti reviewed the political situation on the continent. They asserted their loyalty to the OAU and its charter, particularly the provisions on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, and the principle of nonintervention in their internal affairs. In addition, the two sides emphasized that the OAU is an indispensable framework for consultations and an ideal expression of cooperation and solidarity among African countries in the service of prosperity and progress. They also voiced their detemination to continue the quest for stability and unity in Africa.

Referring to the situation in the Horn of Africa, the Egyptians praised the role being played by the Republic of Djibouti in promoting and vitalizing the dialogue between Ethiopia and Somalia, thus affirming a constant principle adhered to by both Egypt and Djibouti, which is that disputes between states should be settled by peaceful means involving dialogue and negotiations, and that the independence and territorial integrity of the African states should be respected.

The two countries expressed their full support for the struggle for independence waged by the Namibian people under the leadership of SWAPO, the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people. They emphasized the need for the immediate and unconditional implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 as a sound basis for resolving the problem of Namibia without linking it to any foreign factors. The two countries strongly denounced the establishment of an agent government in Namibia. The two countries also denounced the racist practices of the Pretoria regime and the arbitrary measures implemented by the minority apartheid government against the African people, who constitute the majority in South Africa. They condemned the state of emergency used by the minority apartheid government to suppress the African leaders and people of South Africa. In addition, they denounced South Africa's repeated attacks on the African confrontation states, and stressed the need for intensified efforts by the international community to pressure South Africa into abandoning its apartheid policy and granting independence to Namibia. They called for the imposition of mandatory sanctions against South Africa in this context.

According to the joint statement, Egypt and Djibouti assessed the situation in Chad, emphasizing their complete support for the legitimate gopernment in Chad and for the efforts of Congolese President Denis Sassou Nguesso to achieve national reconciliation among the disputing Chadian factions. The two sides expressed their conviction that a settlement of the Saharan problem requires the implementation of OAU resolutions, particularly resolutions 103 and 104, which call for a referendum and a cease-fire.

The two parties highlighted the urgent need for improved African solidarity in confronting the grinding economic crisis that faces the continent. They expressed their belief that the UN General Assembly's special session on the African continent's deteriorating economic conditions, held in New York in May 1986, was a positive step toward contribution by the international community to the resolution of the African economic problem. The two sides stressed the need to consolidate Arab-African solidarity and cooperation by reviving Arab-African cooperative organizations and convening the first ministerial conference for Arab-African cooperation, in preparation for an African-Arab summit, to be held as soon as possible.

On security in the Red Sea, Egypt and Djibouti emphasized that freedom of navigation must be guaranteed and that this artery must be protected from international conflicts and disturbances. Both sides also agreed to cooperate in defending the Nonaligned Movement from the effects of international polarization. They pledged to work together to strengthen the organization's principles in order to achieve peace among the various nations, establish solid foundations for South-South cooperation, and build a new international economic order that will bring economic justice to both North and South.

Regarding the arms race, the two sides expressed deep concern over its growing severity. They came out in favor of action to attain comprehensive disarmament, with emphasis on the nuclear sector. In addition, they stressed the need for redoubled efforts to make Africa, the Middle East, the Red Sea, and the Indian Ocean nuclear-free zones. Egypt expressed appreciation for the work done by Djibouti to foster regional cooperation, and its constructive efforts in hosting the East African summit on combating drought. Both parties were satisfied with their identity of views on the need to develop cooperation among area countries in various fields.

Turning to bilateral relations, the two states approved their close collaboration and deep friendship. They reiterated their desire to bolster and promote the cooperation between them in politics, economics, culture, and science. They also expressed their wish to see a greater role for Egyptian expertise in Djibouti's development. Egypt noted that it will place all available human and material resources at Djibouti's disposal through its fund for technical assistance to African countries. Both sides expressed their interest in making Djibouti a beneficiary of a (?tripartite) technical cooperation program designed for African states.

Djibouti voiced its satisfaction with, and appreciation for the work being done by Egyptian experts and for the way it is done. In the statement, Egypt welcomed Djibouti's decision to restore diplomatic relations. It commended the move, describing it as a positive contribution to strengthening Arab ranks on one hand, and to pushing bilateral relations forward to greater vistas of cooperation on the other. Four agreements were signed during the visit. The Djibouti foreign minister, Moumin Bahdon Farah, invited Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid to go to Djibouti. Dr 'Abd al-Majid accepted the offer, and the date of the trip will be determined later.

In conclusion, the statement contained Djibouti's sincere thanks and gratitude for the brotherly reception given to the members of the delegation during thier visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Jordanian Prime Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC251032 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA) — Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i arrived in Cairo this morning with an official delegation to take part in the fifth meeting of the Higher Egyptian-Jordanian Joint Committee. The group will begin its work in Cairo today, and is expected to discuss economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. Its 2-day session will end with the signing of several agreements on security, oil, and justice.

The Jordanian guest and the members of his entourage were welcomed at the airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and international cooperation; and Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and food security. The ministers of information, local government, and interior were also on hand.

Eight Jordanian ministers are accompanying Prime Minister Al-Rifa'i. They are: Khalid al-Haj Hasan, minister of labor and social development; Marwan al-Hamud, minister of municipal and rural affairs; Dr Raja'i al-Mu'ashir, minister of industry and trade; Dr Hisham al-Khatib, minister of energy; Dr Nasir al-Din al-Asad, minister of higher education; Ahmad Dakhqan, minister of agriculture; Muhammad al-Khatib, minister of information; and Riyad al-Shak'ah, minister of justice. The delegation also includes Fayiz al-Tarawinah, the Jordanian cabinet's economic adviser, and Aktham al-Qaws, director of the prime minister's office.

Joint Committee Convenes

NC251120 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA) — The fifth session of the Higher Egyptian-Jordanian Joint Committee opened in Al-Tahirah Palace this morning. The Egyptian side was headed by Prime Minsiter Dr 'Ali Lutfi, while the Jordanian representatives were led by their prime minister, Zayd al-Rifa'i, who arrived here this morning. The committee meeting was preceded by a short session between the two prime ministers. Following their initial ecounter, which lasted about 1 and 1/2 hours, the members of the committee's Egyptian and Jordanian delegations left for Al-Qubbah Palace, where they are scheduled to meet shortly with President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Committee Ends Talks, Signs Agreements

NC261602 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA) — The members of the Higher Egyptian-Jordanian Joint Committee concluded their fifth round of talks at Al-Tahirah Palace this morning. The meeting was cochaired by Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi and Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. Egypt's representation on the committee included the deputy prime minister and minister of planning, the deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture, and the ministers of manpower, justice, transport and communications, industry, electricity, economy, higher education, and tourism. Engineer 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, the minister of petroleum, joined the Egyptian delegation yesterday. He attended today's meeting as well. The Jordanian delegation to the committee meeting included the ministers of labor, agriculture, supply, industry, energy, higher education, communications, information, and justice. The Egyptian and Jordanian ambassadors to Amman and Cairo also attended the meeting.

Following the 90-minute session, three agreements on bilateral cooperation were signed in the presence of Dr 'Ali Lutfi and Zayd al-Rifa'i. The first agreement involves oil exploration. It was signed by Eng 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, the minister of petroleum, on behalf of Egypt, and by Dr Hisham al-Khatib, the minister of energy and mineral wealth, on behalf of Jordan. An extradition treaty was signed by Counselor Mamduh 'Atiyah, the Egyptian justice minister, and his Jordanian counterpart Riyad al-Shak'ah. The third agreement pertains to the field of security, and provides for cooperation in efforts to eradicate narcotics. It was signed by Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr and by Jordanian Justice Minister Riyad al-Shak'ah.

After the meeting, Dr Lutfi expressed satisfaction with the discussions. The accomplishments of the committee have lived up to the standard of the brotherly relations binding the leaders of both countries, he added. The Egyptian prime minister said that the committee members had followed up the achievements which have been made in the areas of economy, trade, agriculture, industry, information, tourism, security, and jurisdiction. For the first time, the two countries discussed the possibility of linking their electricity networks. Computers, computer assembly, and teaching computer programming in schools were also discussed, Dr Lutfi stated.

Dr Lutfi expressed the hope that each future meeting of this committee would lead to further cooperation between Egypt and Jordan and to more agreements being signed. The sixth session of this committee is scheduled to be held in Amman in April, he added. The committee, which convenes every 6 months, holds its sessions in one of the two capitals alternately. Both sides are eager for the meetings to take place on schedule and without delay, Dr Lutfi stated.

For his part, Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i said that the two countries had discussed the various aspects of cooperation on the committee's agenda and reached agreement on them. The Jordanian prime minister noted that the record of bilateral cooperation has been very encouraging so far and that steps taken in this direction were steady and calculated. We seek to boost the cooperation between our countries to the level of true friendship which exists between President Husni Mubarak and his brother King Husayn. This objective will benefit both brotherly nations.

Replying to questions from newsmen, Al-Rifa'i said that he had briefed President Mubarak yesterday on Jordan's assessment of current events in the Arab region. He had also listened to the president's views which he will relay to King Husayn. Regarding Jordan's stand on the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, Al-Rifa'i affirmed that neither the Jordanian Government nor the PLO Executive Committee has abrogated it. However, Jordan has suspended coordination and joint political action with the PLO leadership.

The Jordanian prime minister emphasized that his country rejects and condemns Israel's construction of settlements in Arab occupied territories. He said: We hope that the present Israeli Government will adhere to the coalition policy agreed upon by more than one party. We hope that it will not embark on new settlement plans that would deter the search for a just and lasting peace in the region. Al-Rifa'i stressed the current need to hold an international conference in which all the Middle East parties concerned with the conflict would take part along with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Zayd al-Rifa'i also described Jordan's role in preparing for such an international peace conference as essential. Jordan is a major party to the problem, he added, and it is seeking to find an acceptable formula for convening this international conference. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Prime Minister Departs

NC261612 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA) — Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and his accompanying delegation left Cairo today at the conclusion of a 2-day visit to Egypt. During their stay, they represented Jordan at the meetings of thee fifth session of the Higher Egyptian-Jordanian Joint Committee. Al-Rifa'i was also received by President Husni Mubarak. The two men discussed current Arab conditions and bilateral issues. The Jordanian officials were seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi, as well as by Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and international cooperation; Dr Yusu Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and food security; and Zaki Badr, the interior minister.

Ghali Opens Seminar on Dialogue With PRC

NC261006 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, opened a 3-day seminar today on dialogue between Egypt and the PRC. In a speech to the conference, Minister Ghali praised the strong ties linking the two countries, noting taht Egypt was the first of the Arab and African states to establish diplomatic relations with China. He described the ties between Egypt and the PRC as a paradigm of cooperation, and as a model for relations between Third World states. This cooperation, he added, has grown to cover politics, culture, economics, and science. Minister Ghali lauded the PRC's position in support of the Palestinian people's national rights, and explained that China could play a part in the Middle East peace process.

Parliamentarian Receives PRC Delegation

NC261813 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA) — Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, today received the members of a PRC delegation who are in Cairo to participate in a seminar on dialogue between Egypt and the PRC. The delegation is led by Huan Xiang, vice chairman of the PRC National People's Congress Foreign Affairs Committee. The meeting was also attended by the PRC ambassador to Cairo. Discussion focused on recent developments in the Middle East, the Palestinian issue, the Gulf war, and ways to strengthen bilateral ties.

'Abd al-Majid Receives GDR Ministry Official

NC261841 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Ambassador (Van Runter), the official in charge of the Middle East at the GDR Ministry of Foreign Affairs [name and title as received], this afternoon. The GDR official is currently visiting Egypt. During their meeting, they reviewed the current international situation, the outcome of the Reykjavic summit, and several bilateral issues.

Information Minister Leaves on Visit to Bahrain

NC251701 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA) — Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif left Cairo this afternoon on an official 3-day visit to Bahrain at the invitation of Bahraini Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad. In a predeparture statement, Al-Sharif said that this visit falls within the framework of the firm and historic relations between Egypt and Bahrain. It is an expression of the strong ties which bind President Mubarak and the emir of Bahrain. He added that he is carrying a written message from President Mubarak to the amir which expresses this mutual respect and which deals with international and Arab issues of interest to both countries.

The information minister also said: We embarked on cooperation in the area of information during the recent visit which the Bahraini minister of information made to Egypt. My visit is an opportunity to boost this cooperation and to reach a comprehensive agreement in this field. Concluding his statement, Al-Sharif affirmed that he will meet with Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Sulayman al Khalifah to explain various aspects of Egyptian policy. The information minister was seen off at the airport by the head of the Bahraini interests bureau in Cairo.

Saddam Responds to Pope's Cease-fire Appeal

JN261912 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1648 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Oct (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has expressed appreciation for His Holiness Pope Paul's concern about the 6-year war which the Iranian regime is continuing against Iraq to implement its expansionist designs in the region.

In a reply cable to a recent letter from Pope Paul, the president said: We are pleased to inform Your Holiness that we respond to and support your appeal. The president added: Implementing this appeal unilaterally is impossible for well-known reasons. Were this possible, we would have taken a decision to observe a cease-fire on 27 October. However, it would only be possible to observe a cease-fire if the Iranians agreed and responded to this appeal. In this case, a cease-fire would be observed throughout 27 October.

President Saddam Husayn had earlier received a letter from His Holiness Pope Paul in which he urges world political and military leaders to completely halt fighting on 27 October, a day of prayer by all religions for world peace at the Italian town of Assisi. The Iranian side has refused to observe a complete cease-fire on tomorrow, Monday. KUNA cited a reliable source at the Vatican as saying the Vatican held talks with Iranian officials during all of last month concerning Iranian participation in a truce, but the Iranian authorities insisted on rejecting the pope's appeal.

'Aziz: Ready to Cooperate in POW Exchange

JN241553 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed that the best way to end the POW's tribulations is by exchanging all of them in accordance with a specific timetable in a manner that will not leave a single POW in the two countries. Tariq 'Aziz added that Iraq is ready to cooperate with the UN secretary general and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to implement this solution. Tariq 'Aziz said this in a speech he delivered at the 25th international ICRC conference in Geneva today.

The foreign minister and head of the Iraqi delegation to the conference explained that the POW exchange should be complete and comprehensive and without any exceptions. Tariq 'Aziz said that Iraq is of the opinion that this exchange must take place in one of two ways: The first is to exchange POW's on a proportional basis in accordance with the number of POW's held by each country during a maximum period of 6 months in which there will be a comprehensive exchange. The second way is for the exchange to take place in stages, also during a maximum period of 6 months, and for the sick, handicapped, old people, and children to be exchanged in the first stage. In the second stage, the POW's who have spent 2 or more years in captivity will be exchanged while the remaining POW's are exchanged in the third stage.

Tariq 'Aziz said that Iraq welcomes the UN secretary general's active role in this operation in close cooperation with the ICRC. Tariq 'Aziz then reviewed the tribulations and suffering of the Iraqi POW's in Iran. He said that they are premeditatedly killed by the Khomeyniite authorities and subjected to various forms of torture and persecution. He added that the Iranian authorities completely banned the ICRC delegates from performing their duties following the Iranian regime's crime of opening fire on the Iraqi POW's in the Gorkan detention camp in November 1984. Tariq 'Aziz stressed that the POW's tribulations should weigh on the conscience of mankind at this humanitarian conference. He said that Iran had deprived the ICRC without any justifiable reason of the right to contact Iraqi POW's.

Tariq 'Aziz also stressed that the recurrent Iranian violations of the third Geneva Convention are so serious that it has become necessary for the international community and the ICRC to put an end to these violations. Otherwise, the continued silence on these violations will not only pose a threat to the lives of tens of thousands of men but also to the humane law's future.

Tariq 'Aziz said: Under Article 1 of the Geneva conventions, the member countries shall guarantee the respect of these conventions by the governments which enter into an armed conflict with each other. Tariq 'Aziz said that Iraq has unreservedly welcomed the ICRC's performance of its duties and expressed its readiness to cooperate with it so that the POW's state of affairs will be in line with the provisions of the third Geneva Convention. He added that Iraq has provided every means enabling ICRC delegates to pay regular visits to the POW's and supervise the exchange of letters between the POW's and their families. Tariq 'Aziz said that Iraq respects the POW's and their beliefs and has worked to improve their living conditions in the detention camps. He added that Iraq has also enabled the ICRC to carry out its duties without any obstruction in all detention camps since the beginning of the war and to become acquainted with the POW's state of affairs.

Tariq 'Aziz said that Iraq has actively carried out efforts within the framework of the United Nations to settle the POW issue and their tribulations, stressing that these tribulations must weigh heavily on mankind's conscience. Tariq 'Aziz concluded by calling on the conference to name the intransigent aggressor party and impose the sanctions it deserves for its stand, given that this is the course that must be followed to secure the necessary components to safeguard peace and respect the humane international law.

Communiques, Reports List Air, Land Battles

Jet Lost in Raid

JN241124 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1035 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Communique No. 2,415 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 October 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God is great, God is great, from Him we derive the power and means with which we destroy the pillars of evil and wipe out the forces of aggression in recognition of justice, in defense of freedom and virture, and in search of peace.

O proud Iraqis, at 0800 today, our forces observed intensive enemy troop concentrations estimated at two divisons of the Guards of Khomeyni, charlatan of the 20th Century. The gang of evil assembled these guards imagining it could harm Iraq. Let the hopes of the collapsing bastards and ruffians always be disappointed.

These forces, their headquaters, hundreds of tents, vehicles, and trailers, and quantities of equipment, weapons, and hardware were deployed in two places. The first northeast of Shahabad and the second east of Kermanshah. As is customary of your gigantic Air Force, which never ceases to rap the heads of the aggressors in a quick and lightning reaction, tens of your aircraft flew deep inside Iran toward the abovementioned two targets. They swooped down on these important concentrations with a stream of bombs and a huge downpour of bullets which spared nothing. With the help of God and with the determination and courage of your hawks, most of the enemy forces were wiped out and large quantities of war equipment, weaponry, and ammunition dumps were destroyed. The two enemy areas were covered by explosions, tongues of flame, and columns of smoke.

At 0950 today, our aircraft raided and destroyed one of the enemy's main headquarters and the vehicles around it near our international border in the northern of the homeland.

After carrying out all these missions, our brave hawks returned safely to the homeland with their aircraft, happy with their accomplishment and victory. Only one aircraft crashed in enemy territory. We hold the Iranian side responsible for preserving the life of its pilot. O proud Iraqis, this is your crushing reply to the corrupt ones and their lies and false allegations which do not influence anyone. This is another slap to the faces of the war criminals who imagined their evil actions might be concealed from Iraqi eyes which scan the map of the conflict.

Blessed be our Air Force — commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks. Long live the people and long live our Armed Forces under the fluttering banner of our great beloved leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him. O God you have promised support for the faithful and you always keep your promise. O God, you have bestowed Your blessings on us, so increase them. You are the best bestower.

[Signed] The Armed Force General Command, 24 October 1986

Infantry, Artillery Action

JN251728 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Communique No 2,417 [as heard] issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 October 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With a firm belief in God and principles, with an absolute allegiance to the revolution and its leadership, and with loyalty to the land and in defense of it, our triumphant forces continue their heroic activities to destroy aggression and its remnants.

The following is a roundup of our activities for last night and today:

1. Our formations in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah continued to pound the enemy positions, troop concentrations, and gun emplacements, inflicting further losses. They destroyed four infantry positions, one vehicle, and one ammunition dump; damaged another vehicle and one shovel [preceding word in English]; and disrupted the enemy's engineering works. Elsewhere in this sector, one of our patrols seized two rifles and some equipment which the enemy left behind in previous battles.

2. Our units in the VII Army Corps front continued their efficient activities against the enemy units opposite them. They pounded the enemy positions and gun emplacements with all types of weapons, inflicting losses in men and equipment. They also destroyed three vehicles and four infantry positions and seized nine Kalashnikov rifles and two light-caliber launchers.

3. One enemy soldier was killed and others were wounded in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. One enemy boat was destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

5. The criminal enemy shelled the residential areas in Al-'Uzayr and Halabjah district with long-range artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 October 1986

Iranians Shell Residential Areas

JN261725 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Communique No 2,418 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 26 October 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Under our country's historic leadership, with the determination of our men, and with the sacrifices of our people, the final victory will be for those who fight on the path of God and in accordance with our principles. The evil Iranian ruling clique will reap only humiliation, frustration, and the curse of history.

The following is a roundup of last night's and today's activities:

1. Our soldiers in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan spotted a group of enemy men trying to advance on our positions. They opened fire on the group, inflicting many casualties. Those who remained alive were heard crying for help. In the same sector, our units opened artillery fire on enemy positions, inflicting casualties and destroying one infantry position. One enemy soldier was killed elsewhere in the same sector.

2. Using all kinds of weapons, our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah attacked enemy engineering units, destroying one excavator, damaging another, and destroying one observation post and one infantry position, killing its occupants.

3. In the V Army Corps northern sector, our forces seized a number of weapons and a quantity of ammunition and equipment.

4. A number of weapons were seized in the VII Army Corps front.

5. Two enemy soldiers were killed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

6. The forces of charlatanism and falsehood shelled presidential areas in the Kanaru subdistrict with long-range artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 October 1986

Claims on Plane's Downing Denied

JN271215 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1148 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Oct (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims on the downing of an Iraqi warplane. In a statement to INA a short while ago, the spokesman said that these claims are silly and baseless.

Infantry Activity Near Al-Basrah

JN281700 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Oct (INA) — In the course of their activities in the various operations sectors on 26 and 27 October, the Iraqi forces inflicted on the Iranian forces further losses in men and materiel. Communique No 2419 of the General Command of the Iraqi Armed Forces issued in Baghdad tonight says that the Iraqi forces in the II Army Corps central sector and the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah killed or wounded six soldiers of the Iranian forces.

The communique says that Iraqi forward units in the central sector silenced the Iranian sources of fire and destroyed several infantry positions and inflicted casualties on the Iranian forces and caused fires and explosions. The military communique adds that Iranian long-range artillery shelled the (Zamqi) housing complex in the Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate in northern Iraq. A woman was martyred as a result.

Following is the text of the communique issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

Communique No 2419 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our brave fighters are standing like an impregnable barrier in the face of the enemy with their hearts full of Iraq's pride and their arms full of the strength which crushes the heads of aggression and demolishes all foolish adventures.

The following is a round-up of activities for last night and today:

1. Our forward units of the II Army Corps central sector struck with various weapons at enemy units facing them, silencing enemy sources of fire, destroying a number of infantry positions, inflicting casualties, and setting off fires and explosions in other positions. Our units in other areas of the central sector killed one enemy soldier, destroyed one infantry position, and set one ammunition dump on fire.

2. Our brave men in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah continued their combat activities against enemy forces and in their effective strikes inflicted on the enemy losses in men and materiel, killing or wounding five Iranians, destroying a shovel and two infantry positions, and setting ablaze one ammunition dump. They also prevented the enemy from carrying out engineering work.

3. Our brave men also destroyed an excavator and seized hardware left behind by the enemy in previous battles in the VII Army Corps sector.

4. The forces of the tyrannical clique ruling Iran shelled the (Zamqi) housing complex in Al-Sulaymaniyah with long-range artillery. The enemy bombardment resulted in the martyrdom of one woman.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 October 1986

Paper Denounces Arab 'Silence' Toward Iran

JN251003 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Oct (INA) — An Iraqi newspaper has denounced Arab silence on Iranian actions and measures against Arab and Kuwaiti shipping. In an article today, *Al-Thawrah* says Arab silence on these Iranian actions and practices has encouraged Iran to belittle Arab attitutdes and to indulge in aggression and piracy against Arab Gulf states.

The paper notes that despite their inability to open a new front against any of the Gulf states, the Iranian rulers do not hesistate to mount provocative acts of aggression against the soviereignty, interests, and legitimate rights of the Gulf states and to blackmail and pressure them. The paper says the Iranian rulers are thus violating the territorial integrity of the Arab Gulf states and are trying to play the old role of the shah in this region.

The paper refutes the Damascus regime's allegations that it was able to prevent an expansion of the war and demands that Hafiz al-Asad give a logical explanation of the Iranian attack on the Kuwaiti tanker *Al-Fayha*. It concludes by saying the Iranian rulers are insisting on expanding the war and that the Damascus rulers' allegations are mere lies and blackmail which cannot deceive anybody, adding the war with Iran is an Arab-Persian war and not an Iraqi-Iranian war as Hafiz al-Asad says.

Saddam Receives Kuwaiti Invitation to ICO Summit

JN271039 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Oct (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has received a message from his brother His Highness Prince Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti amir, inviting him to attend the Fifth Islamic summit conference. The message also deals with the strong fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries. 'Abd al-Rahman Salim al-'Atiqi, the Kuwaiti amir's personal envoy, delivered the message when the president received him today.

YAR Interior Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

JN241352 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Oct (INA) — YAR Interior Minister 'Abdallah Husayn Barakat and the accompanying delegation has left Baghdad for home at the conclusion of a 3-day visit to Iraq. During his visit, Barakat conveyed a verbal message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He also signed with Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member and interior minister, an agreement for technical and administrative cooperation between the Foreign Ministries of the two fraternal countries.

Oil Minister Returns From New Delhi Meetings

JN261641 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Oct (INA) — Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad al-'Uraybi returned to Baghdad from New Delhi today after presiding over the 10th session of the joint Iraqi-Iranian committee for economic and techmical cooperation which was held in New Delhi on Friday.

In a statement to INA, the Iraqi minister said that during the meetings of the 10th session they discussed what was implemented during the previous session, prepared a plan for trade, industrial, technical, and cultural cooperation for the next year, and signed a protocol for cooperation in tourism. He added the committee meetings laid the foundations for bilateral cooperation in financial and economic fields, especially regarding the administration and maintenance of industrial and services projects.

Reportage on Reaction to UK's Break With Syria

AL-DUSTUR 'Regrets' Break

JN250904 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Oct 86 pp 1, 25

[Unattributed news analysis]

[Text] Yesterday Britain severed diplomatic relations with Syria and Syria responded in kind. Britain severed its relations with Syria on the basis of a court verdict in the case of Nizar Hindawi, who was accused of planting a bomb in the suitcase of his Irish girlfriend who was about to board an Israeli El Al plane.

We do not wish to disucss the British court's verdict. However, the matter must be viewed from an anxiousness to preserve European- Arab relations in view of the ties of culture, history, and civilization between the Arabs and Europe, in view of common interests, and also in view of positive developments in the European stand on the Arab cause. It is true there are differences among the stands of European states toward the Arabs' principal cause and toward Arabs in general, however, there is a clear distinction between the European stand and its open channels to the Arabs and the U.S. stand, which is biased toward Israel.

It is regrettable that since the beginning of the century Arab-European relations have been affected by many factors. However, the most important of such factors was the stand on the Palestinian question. There has always been a negative influence by world Zionism on European-Arab relations and on Europe's stand toward the Arabs.

Perhaps one can say that the severance of relations between two countries — any two countries in the world — is an ordinary and transient event. However, our great anxiousness to preserve the European role in general, and the British role in particular, makes us regret the development in the situation to the extent of severance of relations between a European country and an Arab country, particularly under the present circumstances — especially following the campaign waged against Arabs — all Arabs — in France, accusing them of involvment in terrorism. The campaign almost led to a deterioration in relations between France and most of the Aab states, but the French Government realized there were quarters working in the dark to bring about a break in Arab-French relations.

The real fear arising from the break in diplomatic relations between Britain and Syria is that Israel will exploit such a situation. It is no secret Israel seeks to abort all peace efforts in the region, particularly following Likud's assumption of power. Israeli raids against southern Lebanon and against refugee camps and villages are clear proof of Zionist terrorism. Israeli threats and actions are a clear declaration that Israel alone has the right to commit acts of violence anywhere in the world — according to Sharon. We do not intend to prove here that Israel is guilty of terrorism, but merely to recall that Israel exploited the assassination attempt on the Israeli ambassador to Britain to launch an allout attack on Lebanon and besiege Beirut. The invasion of Lebanon in 1982 in the wake of that individual act led to the killing of thousands of people, while many other thousands were made homeless. It prompts us to pause at this incident which Israel will use as a pretext to launch a wider war — and the hawks in Israel are threatening and talking about a war which will go beyond the borders of Lebanon and Syria, a devastating war enabling Israel to impose its hegemony. Shamir says such a battle will be in "revenge" for the 1982 war whose results were not favorable to Israel, the killing and destruction which took place notwithstanding.

Sharon's recent remarks on confrontation and war and the provocative military operations in Lebanon, as well as the international tension following the failure of the Reykjavik summit, make us feel much more than regret over the break in relations between Britain and Syria — we feel apprehensive that Israel will exploit the incident to kindle fire in the region and threaten world peace and security.

JORDAN TIMES on Break

JN261328 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Oct 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Diplomacy Suffers"]

[Text] The mutual expulsions of diplomats by Washington and Moscow, and the most recent breaking off of relations between London and Damascus is yet another grim reminder that diplomats are increasinly becoming the scapegoats for the ills of international relations.

The international community has historically been reluctant to break lines of communications, no matter how badly bilateral relations among states were going. In fact, when relations between states become tense, the need to keep channels open becomes all the more pressing.

With this recent spate of diplomatic rows, the necessity of reviewing diplomatic privileges and immunities becomes all the more evident. To prevent international tensions from seriously curtailing diplomatic avenues, some stronger measures should be taken to strengthen diplomatic procedures and institutions.

These de facto restrictions and disruptions of the diplomatic corps, contrary to international law, require amendments to the relevant law in order to reflect these new circumstances.

In the case of Syria and Britain, severing diplomatic ties threatens to disrupt any possibility of holding an international peace conference on the Middle East, since these two countries are destined to play indispensable roles in it. One can hardly imagine an international conference without the participation of one of the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and one of the key countries in the region.

And what makes this situation even worse is that these recent steps are likely to generate hostility and ill-feeling between the Arab World and the West. This potential mutual hostility threatens to sabotage any chance of holding such an international conference.

One can also not exclude the possibility that such hostility against Syria and the Arab World by the West could set the stage for Israel to commit aggression against Syria. If this happens, it most probably will be the final blow to all peace efforts in the region. With this in mind, it is only reasonable and prudent to expect from all states concerned to think carefully about the implications of their actions for long-term peace prospects in the Middle East.

Armed Forces Chief Departs for UK 25 Oct

JN252034 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Amman — Staff General Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, left Amman today at the head of a military delegation on an official visit of several days to the United Kingdom at the invitation of the head of the British joint chiefs of staff.

He was seen off at Amman airport by Chief of Staff Fatahi Abu Talib, his assistants, the Armed Forces inspector general, and the Royal Air Force commander.

Al-Rifa'i, Delegation Return From Cairo Visit

JN261649 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and his delegation returned from Cairo this evening after heading the Jordanian side to the meetings of the Jordanian-Egyptian joint higher committee, which concluded its work today. The prime minister and his accompanying delegation left Cairo airport today. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Receives USSR Envoy Sytenko

JN251633 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri today received Mikhail Sytenko, ambassador at large at the USSR Foreign Ministry and CPSU General Secretary Gorbachev's enovy. During the meeting, the Soviet envoy explained what took place in the Reykjavik talks between the Soviet and U.S. leaders and the USSR viewpoint on the topics discussed which were mainly related to nuclear disarmament and strategic arms reduction.

The foreign minister expressed Jordan's support for the principle of a superpower agreement on nuclear disarmament and strategic arms reduction. He pointed out that Jordan thinks such an agreement will offer protection from the dangers of nuclear destruction and reflect positively on the possibility of achieving solutions to regional problems, particularly the Middle East crisis and the Palestine question.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the situation in the region and developments in the Arab arena.

King Hussein Receives Envoy

JN262046 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] His majesty the king received the visiting envoy of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who briefed his majesty on the Kremlin's view towards the topics discussed at the Iceland superpower summit. The meeting with Ambassador Mikhail Sytenko at Al-Nadwah Palace was attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan al-Qasim, and the Soviet ambassador in Amman.

King Cables Condolences on Machel's Death

JN251534 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Amman, 25 Oct *(Petra)* — His Majesty King Husayn has sent a cable of condolences to Mozambican Prime Minister [as received] Mario de Graca Machungo on the death of President Samora Machel. His majesty requested that the condolences of the people and government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan be conveyed to the Mozambican people and government on President Machel's death. He asserted that the world will feel his absence because he devoted his life to freedom in Africa.

His majesty said history will show that the Mozambican president died on his way back from a conference that discussed freedom in another African country.

Karami Denounces UK for Severing Ties With Syria

NC251840 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami has denounced the British Government's decision to break off diplomatic relations with Syria. Speaking to newsmen after chairing a meeting of the Northern Coordination Committee today, Prime Minister Karami said: Our experience with Britain is long, beginning with British injustice toward us which resulted from the 1917 Balfour Declaration to establish a Zionist state in Palestine. He added: The international community must understand that people who are oppressed, who face injustice, and whose lands are usurped have chosen the path of struggle and jihad. This path is long and difficult, but right must be pursued and injustice must end.

Hawi Calls for Severing Relations With Britain

NC252052 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic
to Lebanon 2000 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, has called on the government to take immediate measures to sever diplomatic relations with Britain and to expel the U.S. [as heard] ambassador from Lebanon. He said that the British provocation against Syria is part of a hysterical campaign led by the United States and followed by NATO countries under the pretext of fighting terrorism. It has taken place at a time when the entire world has realized that Arabs are the victims of Zionist-imperialist terrorism and not the creaters, instruments, or supporters of terrorism.

Bomb Wounds Italian Diplomat; Group Claims Blast

NC260659 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] An attack was carried out yesterday against the Italian Embassy's temporary quarters in Beirut. An individual who claimed to be speaking on behalf of the Committee for Solidarity With Arab and Middle Eastern Prisoners has contacted a Western news agency, and announced that the movement was responsible for the assault.

As has been reported, an explosive charge was placed under a car with diplomatic plates, and it went off in front of the embassy's temporary quarters in Zuq Mikha'il. An Italian diplomat was slightly injured in the blast.

The caller said: This is a warning to Italy and France. He then demanded the immediate release of detainees in France and Italy, and noted that a statement would be distributed later.

Karami on Boycott of Al-Jumayyil, Syrian Relations

NC251630 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami has affirmed that the boycott [of the president] will not end unless the reasons which prompted it are removed and agreement is reached through dialogue based on the principles specified in the wake of the president's speech last August. He maintained that such an agreement will bring us to B'abda and B'abda to Damascus. Prime Minister Karami made these statements at a meeting of the Northern Coordiantion Committee in Biqa' Safrin at noon today.

Prie Minister Karami expressed surprise at calls for convening an international conference to discuss the Lebanese issue. He recalled what the outcome of the Multinational Forces' mission had been. He stressed that the best way to achieve a solution is through the Lebanese people themselves. He also expressed surprise at the opposition which has been raised to discussing the issue of distinguished relations with Syria and Lebanon's Arab identity, especially at a time when overt and covert relations are being renewed with the Israeli enemy.

Junblatt on Anti-Syrian 'Attack,' Fighting

NC261455 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic
to Lebanon 1230 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Excerpt] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, has called for an immediate halt to the continuing fighting in the South. He described events there as a national and pan-Arab disaster, as they will have a devastating impact on everyone. What we need, Junblatt added, is the unification of nationalist and Palestinian forces against Israel and its agents. He said: As this terrible and destructive infighting goes on, we are unable to express in words the reality of the tragedy. This war also comes at a time when Western imperialism has launched a concerted attack on Syria.

Junblatt asked: Why don't the West and its intelligence services get the facts and condemn racist terrorism in South Africa, for instance? Why don't they reveal the truth about the assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, who was killed because of his national and international positions against racism and the aggressive policies of the West? Why isn't the truth told about the death of Samora Machel, whom the imperialists murdered by downing his plane? Why aren't the facts revealed about the U.S. Navy's siege of Nicaragua, and the $100 million in aid given to the Nicaraguan opposition recently to fight the progressive government that toppled Somoza's tyranny?

Walid Junblatt noted: All this is obvious evidence of an imperialist Western-American bias. Therefore, the only goal in leveling accusations against Syria at this time is to cover up Western crimes against the peoples of Africa and the Third World. These charges are baseless. They are part of an attempt at blackmail and seek to tighten the noose still further.

Walid Junblatt added: We are fully confident that the Lebanese and Arab nationalist forces, which are allied with Syria, can meet all these campaigns head-on regardless of the consequences. [passage omitted]

Sees Soviet Envoy, Meets With Khaddam

NC261752 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1645 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt met with Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha in Al-Mukhtarah today. Junblatt later went to Damascus where he met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam for 4 hours.

Ja'ja': Syria Target of 'Limited' Military Strike

NC252215 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2115 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Excerpt] Dr Samir Ja'Ja', chairman of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee, tonight affirmed that Syria plays a big role in the south where the battle is actually between it and Yasir 'Arafat. He added that this battle is between two foreign parties. He described it as a war among foreigners on Lebanese territory.

He emphasized that the Syrian cards have become exposed to the West. This is bound to relieve the pressure on Lebanon. Any terrorist act is liable to expose Damascus to a military strike by the West, he added, although such a strike would be limited. [passage omitted]

4,000 Palestinians Arrive in Iqlim al-Kharrub

NC261051 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] The Ja'farite mufti, His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan, has been in touch with Minister Nabih Birri; Deputy Nazih al-Bizri; Eng Mustafa Sa'd; Mahmud Faqih; Shaykh Najib Suwaydan, the mufti of Tyre; Colonel 'Ali Hammud; and 'Ali al-Durr. In these contacts, Mufti Qabalan stressed the need for greater efforts to end the fighting between partners in a common cause. He called on the warring factions to implement the agreements that have been reached thus far and to return to their previous positions. Mufti Qabalan condemned reports broadcast by private radios, which he said were designed to foment sedition. He added: It is hard to believe that the Palestinians have left their posts in Kafr Falus and turned to fight our people and engage the Amal Movement in a peripheral battle. The Amal Movement has been resisting the Israeli enemy, and has offered martyrs in defense of our land and dignity.

Mufti Qabalan declared: We were told today that 4,000 Palestinians have moved to the Siblin area of Iqlim al-Kharrub. This reminds us of the days of the Israeli invasion, and could be a prelude to a new Israeli attack. This, in turn, makes it incumbent upon us all to be on guard, stop the bloodshed, and fend off sedition.

PSP Denies PLO Presence

NC262048 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] An official security source from the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] tonight denied reports carried by certain suspect media to the effect that Palestinian gunmen have deployed in Siblin. These reports are completely baseless, the source emphasized, and the party's stand remains clear. The party's leader today reiterated this stand when he called for an immediate halt to the fighting in the south, the source added. Junblatt described what is now taking place as a national and pan-Arab calamity, for the consequences will be devastating to everyone. He demanded that the national and Palestinian rifle be trained against Israel and its agents.

The same source also denied a report that the PSP has set up roadblocks on the coastal road. He stressed that there are no roadblocks and that the party only deploys routine patrols to safeguard the security of citizens and to ensure the safety of the road.

Mediation To End Fighting Reportedly Fails 26 Oct

NC261525 Beirut Domestic Service in English
1507 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Reports coming from south Lebanon indicated that high tension still prevails in the vicinity of the refugee camps east of Sidon. Security reports indicated that clashes were still going on while fighting was renewed in the Al-Rashidiyah camp in Tyre. Sounds of shells were still being heard from far away.

Amal sources said that Amal men are approaching the camp amid heavy fighting with Palestinian elements.

Efforts were exerted today on different levels to put an end to the fighting but have failed so far.

30 Killed, 100 Wounded

NC261655 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic

1530 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Clashes involving the use of various types of weapons resumed in and around the camps east of Sidon today. A new combat line was opened at Kafr Falus in the direction of villages east of Sidon. The Amal Movement has positions in Jinsnaya and Al-Qurayyah. [passage omitted]

Tallat Mar Ilyas came under violent artillery and rocket fire at noon today. A shell hit an Amal Movement position, killing four people. They have been identified as Nasir Ibrahim, Nazim 'Izz al-Din, Hasan Muhammad Nayif, and Husayn Sultan.

According to security sources, 30 people have been killed and approximately 100 others have been wounded in the fighting since yesterday. [passage omitted] It has been reported that the fighting eased along the Al-Rashidiyah combat lines at 1600.

Contacts have continued in an attempt to remedy the situation. A second meeting has been held at the home of Mustafa Sa'd in Sidon. An earlier meeting ended at 0230 today without achieving any results due to differences regarding buffer zones between the camps in Sidon and the neighboring areas.

The conferees met again at 1200. Representatives from the National Union Front, the Amal Movement, the Palestinian National Salvation Front, and the camps committees attended this meeting. The participants reached a draft agreement providing for an immediate cease-fire, the deployment of disengagement forces from the Popular Liberation Army tomorrow, and the withdrawal of all fighters to their original positions.

Before the agreement could be signed, the conferees received information about current security developments and military concentrations. Those responsible rushed to remedy these matters before signing the agreement at 1600.

Agreement Reached 27 Oct

NC270635 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Excerpts] The Sidon agreement for a cease-fire in and around the Palestinian camps has coincided with the pope's call for peace and for prayers around the world today. Calm began to prevail on the combat lines in Sidon and Al-Rashidiyah at midnight last night.

This agreement was reached among the parties concerned at 2200 yestrerday, following a meeting held at the home of Eng Mustafa Sa'd and two others at the homes of 'Asim Qansuh and Minsiter Nabih Birri. [passage omitted]

The agreement provides for the following:

1. A cease-fire effective at 2200 yesterday.

2. Fighters of either side to return to their former positions.

3. A Popular Liberation Army force to provide a buffer between the fighters.

4. The agreement to go into effect immediately, to be supervised by a committee composed of representatives from the Amal Movement, the Popular Liberation Army, the Palestinian National Salvation Front, the popular committees, and a Syrian officer.

According to this agreement, a Popular Liberation Army force is scheduled to deploy in the areas that were the scene of fighting, at 0700 today. A special committee has been asked to draft the plan for deployment and to supervise its implementation. A Popular Liberation Army force deployed on Tallat Mar Ilyas at midnight last night. [passage omitted]

Army Units To Observe Cease-Fire

NC262057 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2015 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] It has been learned that the Lebanese Army Command has instructed the units deployed along the contact lines to refrain from opening fire tomorrow regardless of the security conditions. This move comes in response to the appeal by his holiness the pope to observe a day of prayer for world peace.

Fighting Resumes Around Camps

NC270443 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0400 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Excerpt] Security sources have informed us that fighting resumed last night around the Al-Rashidiyah camp and east of the Sidon camps. Neither of the two sides has abided by the agreement to stop the fighting at 2200 yesterday. This agreement had been reached at a broad meeting held at the house of Eng Mustafa Sa'd [secretary general of the Nasirite Popular Organization] and attended by a number of concerned officials. [passage omitted]

Clashes Continue in Camps

NC271514 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1445 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] The Palestinian camps in the southern suburb [of Beirut] particularly Burj al-Barajinah, are currently the scene of intermittent clashes involving the use of machineguns and hand grenades. The fighting coincides with a state of alert among Amal Movement gunmen, who are fortifying their positions. According to security reports, the Amal Movement has brought in reinforcements of personnel and equipment from the Al-Biqa' area. They were assembled at Amal's operations center near the airport bridge this afternoon.

In Tyre, the Amal Movement is continuing its attacks against the Al-Rashidiyah camp. Clashes involving the use of mortars and 107-mm rocket launchers are taking place. Palestinian sources affirmed a short while ago that all attacks against the camp have failed. Amal has transferred men and ammunition to the area surrounding the camp. According to the Palestinian sources, Husayn Isma'il Hamad was killed inside the camp and three other people were wounded.

Lahd Militias Attack Liberation Army Posts

NC271313 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic
to Lebanon 1230 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Excerpts] According to reports from the areas east of Sidon, there is tension along the Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir-Kafr Falus front as a result of continuing attacks by Lahd militias against posts held by the Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd group of the Popular Liberation army.

The Liberation Army's information and guidance office has issued a statement reporting that two men were martyred in the Kafr Falus-Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir front during the artillery shelling directed at the area last night by agent Lahd's militias. [passage omitted]

In another development, reports from the south indicate that Lahd militiamen infiltrated the western sector of 'Arab Salim at dawn today. The group received cover from Israeli helicopters. It clashed with the Lebanese Army unit stationed in the area and was forced to retreat. The casualties have not been disclosed.

Amal Source Reacts to Algerian Paper's Report

NC271238 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] A responsible source in the Amal Movement's information section today replied to accusations made by the Algerian newspaper *Al-Chaab*, which charged that Amal has committed a crime against the Palestinian people and the whole Arab nation.

The source expressed regret that such accusations have come from experienced revolutionaries, who know very well who and what the Amal Movement is.

The source said: We are really waging a war, not against Palestine and the Arab nation, but against the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. The fists of the fighters have made southern Lebanon a mecca of pride for Arabs and Muslims alike.

The source added: Our position and decisions come from us. We do not follow the orders or abide by the desires of others. You are well aware how deep the relationship between Amal and the FLN is.

Organization Threatens 'Arafat Supporters

NC271602 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] The Imam al-Sadr Suicide Forces [Quwwat al-imam al-Sadr al-Intihariyah] have announced that they will attack pro-'Arafat militias at any time wherever they are. In a telephone call to the Voice of Lebanon, a spokesman for this organization called on the kinfolk to extend all assistance to Al-Sadr's sons in the south.

Phalangists Appoint New Secretary General

NC271304 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] The Phalangist Party's political bureau has decided to appoint Attorney Charles Dahdah as the party's secretary general to replace Attorney Joseph Sa'adah. It has also decided to appoint Joseph Ilyas as chief of the Phalangist Security Council to replace Sami Khuwayri.

Reply Made to UK Decision to Sever Relations

JN241815 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] A responsible source has stated the following: Since its assumption of power, the present British Government has persistently carried out campaigns against Arab countries and Third World countries proceeding from a racist colonialist background. In collusion with the Zionist enemy, it recently focused its campaign against the Arabs, particularly against Syria, which firmly confronts Israel's policy of expansion and aggression in the region.

The Arab citizen cannot forget the black history of British colonialism, which the British Government vainly seeks to revive and the role of this colonialism in planting the Zionist entity in Palestine and the racist regime in South Africa, as well as British colonialism's role in plundering and dismembering the peoples who had fallen victim to its designs and conspiracies.

The British Government insisted on revealing its colonialist and racist rancor against the Arabs and collaborated with the Zionist enemy in accusing Syria of allegedly trying to blow up a civilian Israeli plane despite the fact that the Syrian Government had officially explained to the British Government that it had nothing to do with this and had also repeatedly announced its rejection of these alleged accusations and its condemnation of such acts.

After taking cognizance of the British Government's unjustified decision to sever its diplomatic relations with Syria, the Syrian Government has decided the following:

1. To sever diplomatic relations with the United Kingdom and to close the British Embassy in Damascus.

2. To close the British Council in Damascus.

3. To close Syrian airports and airspace to British planes.

4. To close Syrian ports and territorial waters to British vessels.

The Syrian Government has given the employees in the British Embassy and the British Council 1 week to leave the country and has decided to ask Syria Air to suspend its flights to London.

UK Envoy Expresses 'Regret' Over Break

JN242044 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2015 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] British Ambassador in Damascus Roger Tomkys has expressed regret over the British Government's decision to sever diplomatic relations with Syria. In a statement to *United Press International Newspictures*, he said: It is a sad occasion for me to have to leave this beautiful country, Syria. In the 2 years that I have been here, I have established the best of relations and friendship and received the best treatment and tact from Syrian officials. The British ambassador added: The duty of the ambassador is to develop relations between the two countries. Therefore, I feel miserable and now after the break in relations I feel as though I failed in my mission.

The ambassador explained that according to the information available to him the judge who conducted the trial [in London] informed the jury during the trial that they were trying an individual and not Syria.

Al-Shar' Discusses Break in Ties With Britain

JN251815 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' held a news conference at the Foreign Ministry this evening that was attended by some representatives of the Arab and foreign news agencies and correspondents of foreign television networks.

At the beginning of his news conference, the minister said that it is not being held to complain about the British Government's decision to sever its diplomatic relations with Syria because it is Britain which stands to lose from this decision as the Syrian reply was firm and necessary. He added: This news conference is aimed to inform public opinion that the accusations which the British Government tried to level against Syria are not based on any proof.

The minister said: Since Al-Hindawi was arrested in April it has been evident that the British Government was seeking to achieve political aims serving Israel on the one hand and stirring up anti-Arab feelings in Europe on the other. He added: The British Government's aim was not to obtain justice and facts. The minister refuted all the points mentioned in the statement delivered by British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe before the British House of Commons and said: The British secretary considered the mere existence of a nondiplomatic Syrian passport in Al-Hindawi's possession sufficient proof of Syria's involvement without explaining to the House of Commons that several countries issue passports to other nationals and that Britain in particular is one of the countries that issues British passports to a great number of non-British nationals.

The minister added: The fact that the Syrian ambassador received Al-Hindawi after the latter's return from the airport does not mean anything. The British secretary did not say that Al-Hindawi was expelled from the Syrian Embassy and that no protection or assistance was offered to him. He added: If the Syrian Embassy had offered Al-Hindawi any assistance, he would not have been forced to give himself up to the British authorities.

Regarding what the British foreign secretary said in his statement on his country's break in relations with Syria and on the British Government's determination to play a fundamental role in the search for peace in the Middle East, Al-Shar' said: The British role in the peace process has become nil after the British Government disclosed its rancor and hostility to the Arab nation and particularly Syria. The minister added: It is well known that British Prime Minister Mrs Thatcher has for several years been presiding over the Israeli-British Friendship Society and the Conservative Party's Council of Israel's Friends. This suffices as cogent proof of the extent of her bias toward Israel and the extent of her negative feelings toward the Arabs.

Responding to a question on the fate of the British nationals in Syria, he said that they will receive all the possible care and attention from the Syrian authorities and Syrian citizens. He added: The decision to sever relations does not at all apply to them. Regarding the possibility of a European stand following the British decision, Al-Shar' said: We rule out a European action similar to the illogical British stand. He added: The Europeans know the British prime minister's extremist stands on several international issues.

Replying to a question on whether Syria will stop offering any help to release the foreign hostages in Lebanon, he said: Syria rejects blackmail and all types of pressure. It will continue to adhere to its firm principled stands on all current issues. Just as it helped in the past to release the hostages it will continue to help in this regard and will continue to stick to its well-known stand to condemn all forms of terrorism and defend the legitimate Arab struggle against the Israeli occupation.

Al-Shar' CBS Interview Cited

JN261815 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1745 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Basim al-Mu'allim dispatch from Washington]

[Excerpt] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has challenged his British counterpart Geoffrey Howe to reveal what he claimed to be certain evidence of the involvement of Syria and its ambassador Lutfallah Haydar in the Nizar Hindawi affair. In an interview with the U.S. TV network CBS, al-Shar' said: Mr Howe explained how Hindawi went from the airport directly to our embassy in London, but failed to reveal what ensued between the ambassador and Hindawi. The ambassador expelled him from the embassy and refused to give him protection.

Al-Shar' was asked: You said Britain will pay dearly. How?

He replied by saying: The British Government will pay dearly when the British people discover the true nature of this farce. Britain is now more isolated than ever in our region.

As for the United States, Al-Shar' said it recalled its ambassador for consultations and this is natural.

Asked about the Arab attitude on the Syrian-British diplomatic dispute, Al-Shar' said: We certainly did not ask any fraternal Arab state to sever relations with Britain; neither have we demanded the imposition of economic sanctions against the British Government.

On the U.S. and French hostages in Lebanon, Al-Shar' said: Syria helped release more than 50 U.S. hostages in Lebanon, and it will continue its efforts to release the French and U.S. hostages in Lebanon.

Al-Shar's remarks come 3 days after Washington recalled its ambassador from Damascus. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Reacts to British Decision

JN251312 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] Syrian Minister of Information Yasin Rajjuh has called the British Government's action [of breaking relations] provocative, serious, and unjustified, being within the context of attempts to revive Britain's colonialist role in the area and dramatizing the British Government's complete submission to Zionist and imperialist blackmail.

Rajjuh added that the British Government has thus unmasked its old-new antagonism toward the Arab nation, its goals, and its supreme interests and that what the British Government has done hardly serves peoples' interests. The minister said Britain's attitude is not convincing because of a lack of evidence supporting allegations made by the British Government against Syria.

The British Government, he charged, acted in collusion with Israeli intelligence to frame Syria in the alleged attempt to blow up an israeli plane. This is despite the fact the Syrian Government officially made it clear to the British Government Syria had nothing to do with it and that it has over and over again repeated its rejection of these allegations and its condemnation of such acts. The minister recalled a statement made by President al-Asad in Athens on 27 May that Syria is against terrorism and another statement by the Syrian leader to the U.S. *Time* magazine that terrorism only serves Israel's interests.

Meanwhile, Syrian newspapers today called the British Government a Zionist government that colluded with Israel by concocting a story to discredit Syria's pan-Arab stands and prepared the ground for a possible Israeli aggression sponsored by the United States. [passage omitted]

Arab Envoys Summoned Over Break With UK

JN251556 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1520 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Damascus — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 'Isam al-Na'ib this morning separately summoned the ambassadors and heads of the Arab missions accredited in Damascus. The minister talked to the ambassadors about Britain's decision to sever relations with the Syrian Arab Republic and about the political motives behind it. He said that they are related to the situation in the region and to the creation of circumstances which enable the United States and Israel to liquidate the spirit of resistance to the continuous Israeli aggression against the Arab nation. This aggression is linked to the anti-Arab campaign being launched by Zionist and some Western circles.

The minister noted that Israel's rejoicing and support for the British step points to a prior agreement and coordination between them to accuse Syria of the alleged attempt to blow up an Israeli civilian plane in order to harm Syria's steadfast stand on the Zionist and imperialist schemes to dominate the region and liquidate the Palestine question. The minister asserted that such attempts will not make Syria desist from its firm, principled policy on the fateful Arab cause.

'Socialist' Envoys Briefed on Split

JN260642 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0415 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] 'Isam al-Na'ib, minister of state for foreign affairs, yesterday evening summoned the ambassadors of socialist countries to Damascus. The minister spoke to the ambassadors about the motives behind the present British Government's decision to sever its relations with Syria. These motives are intended to createcircumstances in the region which would enable Israel and the United States to liquidate the spirit of resistance to the escalating, continuous Israeli aggression against our Arab nation.

The minister affirmed that the speed with which the U.S. and Canadian Governments recalled their ambassadors from Damascus, their blessing of the British decision, the issuance of a number of U.S. statements urging other countries to follow the British move as well as Israel's praise for the British decision all reveal the extent of the decision and the existing collusion to fabricate an unfounded allegation against Syria of involvement in the attempt to blow up a civilian plane. Syria had officially informed the British Government, reiterated that it had nothing to do with the alleged attempt, and firmly condemned such acts that contradict its principles and values.

Nonaligned Envoys Summoned

JN261201 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] 'Isam al-Na'ib, minister of state for foreign affairs, today summoned the ambassadors and heads of the diplomatic missions of the nonaligned countries in Damascus.

The minister informed them of the decision made by the government of the Syrian Arab Republic to sever relations with Britain and to close Syrian airports, seaports, airspace, and territorial waters to British planes and ships in response to the British decision to sever diplomatic relations with Syria — a decision that lacks all objectivity.

The minister said that the decision aims to exert pressure on Syria and distort its stand of struggle by accusing it of carrying out actions with which it is totally unconnected so as to liquidate the spirit of resistance to the Israeli aggression which is not directed against Syria alone but at the entire Arab nation.

EC Envoys Briefed

JN262055 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2015 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Damascus — Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received the EC states' ambassadors in Damascus this evening. Dia'ullah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister, and Sulayman Haddad, director of the West Europe Department at the Foreign Ministry, attended the meeting.

The foreign minister gave a verbal message to the ambassadors to convey to their states' foreign ministers explaining the true motives behind the British decision to sever relations with Syria. The message includes Syria's stand toward this unjustified decision and refutes the British Government's claims linking Syria with the Heathrow Airport incident.

The message pointed out that the British decision was not based on any evidence, but proceeded from motives hostile to Syria's policy and the Arab cause and from known motives which cannot be isolated from the Israeli role in disrupting Arab-European relations.

In light of the information and facts included in the message, the foreign minister asked the EC ambassadors to analyze and assess the British Government's claims.

Concluding his message, the foreign minister stressed Syria's concern about promoting European-Arab relations in general and Syrian-European relations in particular. He also stressed Syria's concern about continuing joint efforts to surmount obstacles in promoting these relations.

Radio Notes U.S. Recall of Ambassador in Damascus

JN250737 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0415 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] White House spokesman Larry Speakes has announced U.S. support for the British decision [to sever relations with Syria] saying the United States commends and supports the British reaction. Speakes also announced that Washington has decided to recall its ambassador in Damascus William Eagleton after Britain decided to sever relations with Syria. In occupied Palestine, the Zionist entity expressed satisfaction over Britain's decision to break off relations with Syria.

U.S., Canadian Envoys Reportedly Leave Damascus

JN260919 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0900 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Western diplomatic sources have said that the U.S. and Canadian ambassadors to Syria left Damascus for Frankfurt this morning onboard a Lufthansa plane. The United States decided the day before yesterday to withdraw its ambassador from Damascus to demonstrate solidarity with Britain and support for its decision to sever diplomatic relations with Syria. Withdrawing the ambassador does not mean severing relations but is regarded as a more important measure than merely recalling. On the other hand, Canada had also welcomed the British decision and decided to recall its ambassador for consultation.

Damascus Carries Arab League Statement on Break

JN261941 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi yesterday issued a statement on the latest developments in relations between Britain and Syria. Following is its text:

It is deeply regrettable to see relations deteriorate between the United Kingdom and a member state of the Arab League, the Syrian Arab Republic, as a result of the British Government's surprising decision to sever relations with Syria. It is surprising that this decision follows an official statement by President al-Asad asserting that the Syrian Government is innocent of the charges leveled, undoubtedly, by Zionist organs which stand to gain most from harming Syria, because of its steadfast attitude as a key confrontation state against Israel and its rejection of all kinds of pressure to abandon inalienable Arab rights.

These charges were denied in Syria at the highest level when President Hafiz al-Asad said Syria hardly benefits from such terrorist action and that terror serves Israel rather than Syria. We fear the British Government may have fallen into the trap of accusations concocted by Zionist organs which recently waged a hostile campaign in most Euroepan countries and the United States against our Arab states and the rights and interests of the Palestinian people.

The Arab League, which works ceaselessly and earnestly to improve relations between our Arab countries and all countries in the world, cannot help but express deep regret over the British Government's decision. The Arab League believes this decision mainly serves Israeli goals seeking to neutralize all Arab League states' resistance to Israel. The aim is to enable Israel to intensify its settlement policy, which the new government made its top priority, so the Zionist entity can persist in rejecting all international resolutions calling for a durable and comprehensive peace in the area based on international legitimacy.

The Arab League would like to express its backing and support for Syria in confronting hostile Zionsit pressures and campaigns and other campaigns supporting Israel. The Arab League would also like to retiterate that the attitudes which other countries have taken or may take will not help the cause of peace in the Middle East or their relations with Arabs. We must stress our Arab states will not accept tendentious slander against a member state of the Arab League bearing the brunt of confronting the Israeli aggression, because such campaigns would encourage Israel to persist in rejecting U.N. resolutions and in flouting the ideals and principles underlying the international community. As we urge cessation of these campaigns, we do so out of our concern for relations of friendship which the Arab League has all along soughtto affirm and foster.

Britain 'To Pay the Price' for 'Hostile Step'

JN251347 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe made a statement at the British House of Commons yesterday in which he leveled strange and astonishing accusations against Syria. His accusations contradict all objective and reasonable evaluations of matters. Howe concluded his statement by announcing his country had severed diplomatic relations with Syria, listing a number of hostile measures against Syria, Syrian citizens, and Syrian establishments [mu'assasat].

By reading Howe's statement, one discovers its provocative nature and the fact that it was premeditated and planned. One will also discover that a foreign secretary of a government, which is supposed to have great experience and traditions, has pitiably fallen into a unilateral act of recrimination, made an unjustified provocation, and given artifical pretexts which do not stand up to the test of objective discussion or analysis seeking the truth.

All this gives the conviction that the Howe statement and the British Government's anti-Syrian steps were prepared in advance and were an end in themselves, regardless of the facts concerning the Heathrow Airport incident. It is clear the decision to ruin British-Syrian relations had been made in advance within a U.S.-Israeli plot which Britain joined to harm Syria and pressure it to change its firm policy against Israel's expansionist projects and aggressive plans and against U.S. ambitions to completely control the Middle East, its wealth, and the destiny of its peoples.

This is not the first time Britain has given proof it has fallen from being a major power with an independent policy to a state subservient to the United States, implementing instructions, joining adventures and aggressive acts, and standing against third parties at the behest of Washington. The London government's subservience to the United States reached such an extent as to allow Washington to use British territory in launching a military aggression against Libyan territory. The British Government also represents U.S. interests within the EEC.

Previous British Governments tried to give the impression London was starting to coexist with the new conditions in the world, abandoning its dreams and imperialist illusions and its black colonialist history with peoples, such as the Arab people, in whose land Britain planted the State of Israel. These governments tried to give the impression London was trying to deal with other states in light of the new balance of power in various parts of the world. These attempts ranged between partial success and partial failure.

As for Mrs Thatcher's government, it proved at the very beginning its subservience to Washington, it imperialist nature, its dreams of empire, and its hostility to world peace and people's rights. The stand of this govent toward the arms race, Star Wars, the policy of confrontation, and the two racist and aggressive regimes in South Africa and Palestine is the best proof of the reactionary, aggressive nature of Mrs Thatcher's government.

Arabs in particular suffered from the Thatcher government's policy which is hostile to them and their national causes and were harmed by its bias toward Israel and its defense of Israeli aggression, occupation, and expansion. Suffice it to recall that Mrs Thatcher was the president of the British-Israeli Society and that within the British Government she is more Israeli than the Israeli prime minister. Therefore, it was not surprising for Mrs Thatcher's government to join the vile plot of Israeli and U.S. intelligence at Heathrow Airport to harm Syria and create an atmosphere conducive to pressuring and blackmailing Syria and, perhaps, to launching some sort of adventure against it.

Syria does not much care if Mrs Thatcher's government openly joins the Israeli-U.S. plot. Syria knows how to answer every hostile plot in a suitable way and to react to every situation as necessary without being forced to flout its traditions, morality, and respect for laws, conventions, and human dignity. The course which Mrs Thatcher's government chose to pursue with Syria will not crown her with laurels of victory, increase her popularity, or promote the Israeli-U.S. plot which is hostile to peace and to efforts to realize just peace in the Middle East.

The Thatcher government, which claims to resist terrorism, has remained silent about Israeli intelligence's abduction of Israeli nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu from British territory.

The British Government made a grave mistake by joining the U.S.-Israeli campaign against Syria and the Arabs. This government will have to pay the price of this hostile step which is based on premeditated lies, prevarications, and provocations. Neither the British Government nor all the governments which are agents of the United States and Israel will be able to brand Syria with the stigma of terrorism simply because Syria condemns, denounces, and does not allow terrorism. This is not to appease anybody but because Syria is convinced terrorism serves Israel and not the Arabs.

Syria, which desires good relations with all countries based on mutual respect and benefit and noninterference in internal affairs, answers a friendly gesture with a friendly gesture and replies to hostile acts in the proper way.

Press Condemns UK Decision to Break Ties

JN260744 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Press review]

[Text] Damascus newspapers published this morning carry the following major headlines: "Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' Refutes British Allegations, and Affirms That Britain Will Be the Loser by its Decision Because it is Seeking To Achieve the Objectives of a Policy That Serves Israel." "'Isam al-Na'ib Briefs the Ambassadors of Arab and Socialist Countries on the True Situation." "Comprehensive Condemnation of Britain's Hostile Move Against Syria." "The Arab League Affirms its Support for Syria and its Steadfast Stand in Defending the Arab Nation's Rights." "Libya Closes its Airspace to British Planes." "The USSR Affirms That London's Decision is Provocative and Will Affect the Standing of British Diplomacy in the World." "Lebanese Figures Affirm that the Rabid British Campaign Against Syria Constitutes a Challenge to the Entire Arab Nation." "The Palestinian Resistance Factions Affirm Their Stand Alongside Syria in the One Trench With All Their Capabilities Against the Zionist-Imperialist Onslaught." "Archbishop Hakim Condemns British-Zionist Collusion." "Reports of U.S. Measures Against Syria." "The Arab-French Solidarity Society Urges France to Move Away from the British Stand." "The Lebanese Parties and Forces Discuss the Security Situation." "Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami Stresses the Need To Continue the Dialogue and To Respond to the Demands of This Dialogue." "An Armored Invading Force Storms the Southern Town of Shab'ah." "The Egyptian Regime's Sources Speak of a Comprehensive Cabinet Reshuffle."

The newspapers' commentaries focus on the hostile dimensions of Britain's provocative decision to sever its diplomatic relations with Syria.

Under the headline "Britain Is Implementing a Joint Israeli-U.S. Desire," *Al-Ba'th* says: Undoubtedly, the new hostile British stand adopted by the Thatcher government against Syria is a link in an extensive Zionist scheme sponsored by the U.S. Administration. We do not exaggerate when we say that this scheme has serious dimensions. Moreover, the new provocative British stand is merely a practical translation of the hysterical campaign that has been waged by the U.S. and Zionist organs for some time against the Arab nationalist forces which reject all the U.S.-Israeli capitulationist solutions. This means that the hostile British move was carefully and meticulously prepared by the relevant U.S., Zionist, and British organs, even though this hostile move has numerous objectives.

The newspaper explains: The hostile British stand is not only aimed against Syria but also against the entire Arab nation since Syria represents the Arab nation's will and steadfastness. Thus, we deem it necessary to confront the British stand on a pan-Arab level in view of the British move's threat to the future of Arab struggle. We wish to affirm that Syria is sufficiently strong and capable of replying to any measure that is taken against it with a stronger and firmer answer. Moreover, he who dreams of isolating Syria is mistaken because he will discover the extact opposite. Syria derives its strength from its people and the masses of its nation and the stands of its friends in the eastern camp and the nonaligned states. Syria is strong because it is defending the will of the Arab nation. We are very eager to reaffirm that Arab Syria will continue with the policy it charted for itself which means it will continue to prepare itself to face any possibility. Any escalation from this or that hostile side against Syria will undoubtedly face a far stronger and firmer escalation. Anyone who thinks that the policy of intimidation or threats will work with Syria is greatly mistaken. Syria will continue with the national, pan-Arab course it charted for itself since the blessed corrective movement. It is impossible for any force in the world to undermine this course.

On the same topic, *Al-Thawrah* says: Britain cannot conceal its dirty role in the conspiracy against Arabs and in fabricating excuses to justify the rancorous onslaught against Syria. The Arab masses realize the extent of the tragedies they suffered as a result of the policies and collusion of successive British governments during the colonialist rule against the Arabs. Moreover, the Arab masses clearly realize the present British Government's hostile stands toward Arab causes. This British Government is recruiting itself to implement the Israeli policy with all that this policy represents in terms of aggression and terrorism. Thus, the spirit of Arab steadfastness and resistance and the pan-Arab stands that are loyal to the objectives of the masses are the target of the rancorous British campaign. However, this campaign will crash against the rock of Syria's steadfastness. Those who dream of being able to isolate Syria or influence its stand will find themselves isolated. This is because Syria, which derives it strength from its steadfast people, and through its adherence to pan-Arab principles and objectives is not alone in this confrontation. The Arab masses throughout the great Arab homeland are rallying around Syria together with the socialist bloc and nonaligned countries. All the liberation and progressive forces and honorable men in the world stand alongside Syria and support the Arab cause which Syria is defending and which Syria is firmly confronting against all the hostile forces that are attempting to liquidate this cause. This makes Syria and its stand a steadfast bastion against which all the enemies' conspiracies crash. The fate of the British-Zionist campaign will only be defeat and disappointment.

Under the headline "The Hostile British Measure Missed its Target," *Tishrin* says: Clearly, the hostile British measure which was prepared in coordination with the Israeli Mosad within a ridiculous scenario is not aimed against Syria as a government as much as it is aimed against the Arab nation through Syria. This is because Syria is the one leading the Arab nation's battle against the Zionist invasion, is confronting the imperialist schemes of capitulation and hegemony, and is preventing the spread of the Camp David conspiracy by mobilizing the nation's living forces, the Arab masses, which constitute the sharpest weapon. Syria is the obstacle and it would be impossible to pass the Zionist-imperialist scheme without removing or undermining this obstacle.

Thus, after the failure of several imperialist attempts including the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, Britain, out of its deep-rooted imperialist history and extensive experience in the acts that are hostile to the Arabs, was entrusted with the task to prepare the scenario of the Israeli plane with a double-edged objective: To slander Syria, the center of confrontation, to blackmail its stands, to pave the way for any probable Zionist-imperialist aggression, and to break the isolation of Israel and cover its daily terrorist acts which constitute a mark of disgrace in the face of the western world which they call the free world. However, the hostile British measure completely missed its target and has turned and will turn severely against its perpetrators. This is because Syria replied with stronger measures which will harm British interests and Syria will, in future, reply to any hostile measure with a deterrent countermeasure. Syria has the capabilities to thwart all hostile acts.

Radio: British Decision Part of Anti-Arab Plot

JN261308 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, in his important interview with U.S. *Time* magazine President Hafiz al-Asad asserted that the most important aim of the accusations levelled against Syria is to attempt to change its political line of struggle against the Israeli occupation, and that is something which no power on earth can do, for we will not compromise or capitulate with regard to our usurped rights, for they are sacred rights.

The campaign of fabrications in which Britain has been commissioned to act as a cat's paw within the framework of imposing U.S.-Zionist hegemony on the region clearly demonstrates that the campaign of hostility toward the Arabs — which is centered on Syria — was preplanned in Washington, London, and Tel Aviv so as to increase tension in the area and create an international- European cover that will pave the way for an aggression against Syria which, by its firm stands, embodies the will of the Arab masses in halting and foiling the fierce imperialist onslaught. As President Hafiz al-Asad has emphasized, Syria will not allow the Arabs to be humiliated.

Zionist imperialist circles have sought to confuse terrorism with legitimate national struggle to liberate the land and regain the rights so as to exonerate the Zionist enemy who is guilty of organized terrorism against civilian aircraft, violates the sovereignty of UN member states, occupies, destroys, and carries out the ugliest crimes which in their barbarity have surpassed the crimes of the Hitlerite Nazis. The imperialist circles also wanted to improve the ugly image which is imprinted and continues to be imprinted on the memory of the peoples who were the victims of prolonged imperialist occupation, ugly memories of the savage practices and arbitrary actions of imperialism which enforced the law of the jungle on colonized peoples and in the world at large.

Terrorism is originally a form of imperialism, just like racism, Nazism, facism, and Zionism which has carried out serious and great crimes against our Arab nation, particularly in Palestine whose people it expelled and made homeless. Zionism has also expanded its occupation beyond Palestine's borders in accordance with the Zionist-imperialist aim to establish a Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates.

Because Syria is firmly opposing the imperialist Zionist plot, and because Washington has failed to gain acceptance for the Camp David accords in the Arab arena, and because all the past attempts to plot, subvert, and deceive have failed to make Syria succumb, imperialist circles have moved again in a new hostile campaign to achieve the same objective: Namely to contain Syria's political decision and to attempt to deflect it from its line of struggle.

However, Syria which confronted the hostile Camp David onslaught, thwarted it in Lebanon, and tightened the grip around it, is now stronger than at any time in the past: It is strong with its people, its Arab masses, and with the support of all the world's nationalist, progressive, and socialist forces which champion justice and international law, and reject the policy of occupation, aggression, injustice, and terrorism carried out by imperialism against the peoples of the world.

Press: U.K. Move Comes Prior to Expected Aggression

JN270836 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Press review]

[Text] The newspapers' commentaries focus on the hostile British stand and discuss the complete coordination between the United States and Israel affirming that Syria does not fear threats and that Syria expresses the feelings of the entire Arab nation.

In its editorial today, *Al-Ba'th* says: The British decision against Syria and the swift U.S. and Israeli reactions to this decision have once again placed the Middle East on the edge of a volcano. The issue basically was not that of an El Al airliner or of a jury's verdict, but is an issue of a hostile scheme prepared by Washington and Tel Aviv with London joining this scheme as a tool of implementation. This is because the British prime minister is fully prepared to sympathize with Zionism, and consequently, to vent rancor toward the Arabs. This scheme, which emerged in the form of successive onslaughts in the wake of the October liberation war, is not aimed against Syria alone; it is aimed to encroach on the steadfastness of our nation's masses across the Arab arena and to affect their moral and militant will. We followed these onslaughts from the time they were prepared until they were aborted. As our nation's masses affirmed at each stage their awareness of the dimensions of the expected aggression as well as their capability to confront and foil this aggression, today these masses know full well that the badly produced play which was enacted before London and the world was merely a pretext aimed at hiding a new onslaught. The two strategic allies [the United States and Israel] are trying through this theatrical to mobilize world public opinion against Syria and to prepare it, on the basis of abortive illusions, to accept any military action to be carried out in the region in the interest of Israel.

Al-Ba'th continues: The large-scale campaign of solidarity with Syria's militant stand and its firm measures in response to the campaigns of threats and blackmail has affirmed that we are not the only party which confronts all types of aggression. The leading stands adopted by Syria under President al-Asad's historic leadership were supported by the masses of our nation as well as the world liberation and progressive forces. Those who are planning for an aggression must know well that the battle is not with Syria; it is a battle between the enemies of the people who seek their freedom and dignity on the one hand, and all those who oppose the forces of evil, crime, and aggression on the other.

Under the headline "Britain from Colonialism to Zionization," *Tishrin* says: The British Government's hostile step toward Syria was not a surprise, because Syria today represents the aspirations and ambitions of the Arab masses which confront the hostile schemes and plans aimed at liquidating the Palestinian question and imposing capitulatory solutions on these masses. The Arabs and the world know that since it established Israel in the centre of the Arab nation on the soil of Palestine through the ill-omened Balfour promise in 1917, Britain has been trying to implement world Zionism's plan of establishing greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates. Britain has blatantly championed all Zionist steps and measures in occupied Palestine and supported Israel in international political circles. In light of this policy, Britain even showed enmity to the Arab nation and to all its just causes. It has also become clear that the British step against Syria comes within the framework of an old colonialist-imperialist- Israeli scheme in which Britain plays a planned role. This role was the basis of the establishment of Israel in Palestine. Britain is now continuing its planned role to complete the series of this conspiratorial scheme against the Arab nation. This exposes the reality of the British policy which is basically based on colonialist racism.

Tishrin continues: The British claim about Syria's involvement in the attempt to blow up the Israeli airliner was merely a pretext which the Thatcher government propagated in the world to achieve a number of facts. First, to break the international isolation imposed on Israel and to improve its reputation before public opinion as well as to prepare the world to accept any premeditated aggressive measure against Syria; second, to frighten the Arab masses into stopping their militant march and to break the isolation imposed on the Camp David course and its parties. The most important of all this is to attempt to tarnish Syria's image and its leading role in the Arab and international arenas.

In conclusion, *Tishrin* says: Syria's response was firm and immediate. The British measure will not prevent Syria from continuing its pan-Arab liberation role or from its solid confrontation of the imperialist-colonialist Zionist plans and schemes. Al-Asad's Syria has chosen the path of the Arab masses which seek liberation and victory. The British Government must bear the consequences of its hostile decision, because our people and masses will never forgive those who attempt to encroach on their dignity and rights. Syria trusts its potential and the nation's support and depends on the support of world liberation, justice, and peace forces, particularly, the socialist bloc countries led by the friendly USSR. Those who are planning to launch aggression against Syria must think very carefully before embarking on any action because Syria's response will be stronger than they think and different from what they have calculated.

AL-BA'TH on British Action, Call for EEC Meeting

JN271000 Damascus SANA in Arabic
0753 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Damascus, 27 Oct (SANA) — In a comment today, the newspaper *Al-Ba'th* says that the British Conservative Government has been trying to prevent the European states from approaching the true state of affairs in the Middle East since it rebelled against the Venice and Luxembourg declarations, regarding the U.S. course of Camp David as the only course allowed for the EEC states to deal with.

The paper says the Europeans' involvement came as a result of the British position because Britain was the first to accept the deployment of U.S. nuclear missiles on its territory and to be armed by U.S. chemical weapons, creating a clear defect in European security in general.

The paper believes that when the Thatcher government calls for an urgent EEC meeting to discuss its hostile action against Syria, it knows that time will reveal its falsehoods just like the U.S. campaign of deceipt against Libya — a campaign which was exposed after Reagan spat out some of his black rancor against the Libyan people.

The paper affirms that Britain is currently trying to create a European state of affairs like the one which it created in 1956 during the tripartite aggression against 'Abd al-Nasir's Egypt so that the Thatcher government would not be exposed.

The paper wonders: Would Europe again be a spearhead for Zionism, and does it realize that the Arabs, though they may differ, will not hesitate to defend the Arab fate and existence? It says: If it is the United States' interest to control Europe first, will the Europeans accept to be the horse on which the United States sets its stakes?

AL-THAWRAH: 'New Campaign' Doomed to Failure

JN260924 Damascus SANA in Arabic
0805 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Damascus, 26 Oct (SANA) — In a comment today, the newspaper *Al-Thawrah* expresses the conviction that the provocative British decision against Syria is aimed to intimidate the Arabs and to bring them to their knees through the rancourous campaign against Syria, the base of Arab steadfastness.

The paper says that imperialism and Zionism resorted to Britain to use it as a cat's paw for attacking Syria, given that Britain has experience in anti-Arab acts proceeding from its old colonialist role in the region. It affirms that Britain will not be able to cover up its dirty role in the conspiracy against the Arabs and the fabrication of pretexts to justify the rancourous onslaught against Syria.

The paper believes that the British campaign is aimed against Arab steadfastness and Arab resistance, as well as against pan-Arab stands that are committed to the Arab masses' objectives.

Al-Thawrah concludes: Syria will remain a steadfast bastion on which enemy plots and attacks founder. The only fate of the new British-Zionist campaign is failure, disappointment, and defeat.

Radio Reviews British 'Grudge' Against Arabs

JN251824 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brother strugglers: Britain employs all its skill to demonstrate its historical grudge against the Arab nation. The latest act committed by Britain in this regard is the severance ofdiplomatic relations with the Syrian Arab Republic. Britain's grudge against the Arab nation is historical and dates back at least 100 years. We will now talk about the roots of this British grudge which actually dates back hundreds of years.

Some 100 years ago, Britain stormed Arab Egypt on the pretext of combating terrorism. At the beginning of 'Urabi's revolution, Britain fabricated a problem in the city of Alexandria that resulted in the stabbing of a Maltese national. Britain claimed it was responsible for his protection because at the time the island of Malta was a British colony. Britain then invaded Egypt and colonized it for 70 years. The 'Abd al-Nasir revolution, the Egyptian Arab people's revolution, threw Britain out of Egypt on 23 July 1952.

Britain could not endure that blow. It seized the opportunity of Egypt's nationalization of the Suez Canal to try to occupy Egypt once again only 2 years after being thrown out of Egypt. But Britian actually left Egypt, the Arab homeland, and Africa forever as a result of the reckless adventure known as the tripartite aggression, which was joined by France and Israel. That took place in days similar to the present days 30 years ago.

Britain still had the remnants of its old colonialist power when it launched the futile invasion of Egypt 30 years ago, and the elderly British Empire could not find anything other to do yesterday than sever diplomatic relations with the Syrian Arab Republic. Britain's severing of relations with Syria violently brings to light all of Britain's black papers in the Arab homeland since the Balfour Declaration, which resulted in the establishment of Israel. This, inturn, led to all the catastrophes that still tear the Arab homeland apart with U.S. and Israeli claws, especially the British claws, since Britain owns the Balfour Declaration.

At any rate, Arab Syria replied to the British blow with a stronger blow. By doing so, Arab Syria announced that it is qualified to act on behalf of the Arab nation and with the support of the Arab masses. Syria also announced its firm determination to confront the imperialist onslaught against the Arab nation of which Britain chose to be its spearhead next to Israel or perhaps ahead of Israel.

AL-THAWRAH : UK Stands 'Cannot Go Unpunished

JN250840 Damascus SANA in Arabic
0738 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Damascus, 25 Oct (SANA) — In a news analysis today, *Al-Thawrah* newspaper noted that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher welcomed Menahem Begin when he was the head of the Zionist cabinet and met with foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir before the rotation with Shim'on Peres, despite the fact that Begin and Shamir were both wanted by Interpol on the basis of documents presented by British police and are still wanted.

Al-Thawrah says: Thatcher ignored the criminal and terrorist history of those two people and shook hands with the terroirist Zionist leaders, neglecting Britain's interests and its Arab relations.

Al-Thawrah adds: It has been proved that the British judiciary has come under the control of the Zionist clique which gives orders to this judiciary according to its will. The paper says: Suffice it to note the case made against the London newspaper *Sun* when it published a cartoon picturing Arabs as pigs. The case was rejected by the British prosecutor. This prompted the *Sun* to continue with its racist campaign and published 2 days later another cartoon showing the pigs protesting at being called Arabs.

The paper says Thatcher now wants to enter Zionist history, as Lord Balfour did, in her capacity as a member of the Israel's Friends Society in the Conservative Party. The paper adds: British policy has always lacked ethical and moral principles and has always adopted fiendish methods to reach its objectives.

Al-Thawrah expresses regret because Arabs are still being deceived by British stands and because they do not take firms stands to face them. The paper adds: Arabs must now show

Arab strength in the face of British interests to make Britain understand that its hostile stands cannot go unpunished.

Press Condemns British 'Coordination' With Israel

JN250720 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Zionist Britain," *Al-Thawrah* says: Historians agree Britain bears primary responsibility for all the imperialist disasters and tragedies which have befallen the Arab nation since the beginning of the century. The facts about the history of British imperialism corroborate such unanimity among historians. It was Britain which made the Balfour Declaration so the Zionist movement could usurp Arab Palestine. It was Britain which backed the establishment of the Zionist entity and enabled Jewish settlers to immigrate to Palestine during the British mandate. It was also Britain which supplied weapons to Zionist gangs at the time and trained them in British Army camps to commit murder, crimes, and acts of terrorism.

More recently, the Arab citizen cannot forget the dirty role played by Britain in participation with Israel in the aggression against Egypt in 1956 or the continuation of such a role by plotting against the Arab nation and its cause. It was Britain which divided the Arab homeland into statelets and established artificial borders. It opened the way for Western colonial powers to plunder Arab wealth and resources.

Through its imperialist alliance with the United States, Britain — particularly the present government — sought to distort the reputation of the Arabs, was hostile to them, and hatched plots against them. Not content with supporting the Camp David accords, Britain extended to the Zionist enemy many political, military, and economic services to perpetuate the occupation of Arab territory.

Now Britain has given vent to its imperialist and racist rancor against the Arabs through a campaign of accuastions and fabrications in collusion with Israel and Zionist organizations. The campaign is within the same framework as Britain's participation in the recent U.S. aggression against Libya — a stand which has aroused indignation even inside Britain itslef.

Al-Thawrah adds: That is Britain and its rancorous imperialist, colonialist stands against the Arab nation. It is clear that such stands should prompt Arabs to reconsider their relations with Britain because such relations pose a great threat to their national interests.

Under the headline "The Black British Role in Serving Enemy Plans," *Tishrin* says: The Thatcher government insists on reviving the image of the ugly imperialist and racist Briton who delivered Palestine on a silver plate to the criminal and usurper Zionists, made the people of Palestine homeless, and harnessed Britain's resources to serve the plans of world Zionism, and its base Israel, for expansion, aggression, and genocide.

Athough British involvement in serving the criminal aims of Zionism is of no surprise to Syria in particular and Arabs in general, the Thatcher government's coordination with Israel's Mosad in arranging the alleged attempt to blow up a plane, in falsely accusing Syria, and in using British courts to serve such a purpose is truly surprising and recalls Britain's cheap lies which were exposed to the whole world when in 1956 — in coordination with Israel — it committed aggression against Egypt on the pretext of protecting shipping in the Suez Canal and denied it was colluding with Israel. Its lies were exposed and Eden was complelled to resign.

It is clear the Thatcher government's involvement in the Mosad game goes beyond leveling false accusations against Syria and slandering it: It constitutes a flagrant attempt to undermine Syria's national stands and to create a favorable climate for a possible Zionist aggression sponsored and blessed by U.S. imperialism. All that is simply because Syria firmly opposes capitulatory plans in the region, stands in the way of the expansion of the Camp David conspiracy, and firmly confronts Israel's expansionist policies of aggression.

In conclusion, *Tishrin* says: It suffices to recall what has happened and is happening in Palestine and what has happened and is happening in South Africa to accuse Britain of carrying out an ugly role in committing aggression against peoples and implementing the plans of imperialist and Zionsit aggressors. Syria's nationalist [Qawmi] stand in severing relations with Britain and closing down its embassy and the British Council in Damascus and closing ports and airports to British aircraft and ships is a measure to avenge the Arabs' dignity against an ally of Israel which is deeply involved in conspiring against the Arabs and consequently deserves to be the target of retaliatory Arab measures.

PNSF Leaders Meet Khaddam, Discuss Lebanon

JN262100 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
2000 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Text] The information committee of the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] told us that in order to tackle the internecine fighting in southern Lebanon, the PNSF leadership met this afternoon and discussed solutions ensuring an end to fighting around the Palestinian camps. The PNSF leadership then met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and discussed the situation in the south and in the Palestinian camps. Also discussed was the British Government's measure of severing relations with Syria. Several other issues of joint concern were also discussed. The two sides stressed the need to stop the bloody fighting between the Lebanese and Palestinians as soon as possible.

Cabinet Meets; Shamir Praises UK Decision

TA261045 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1037 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today directed for the first time the weekly Cabinet session. The prime minister expressed appreciation for the British Government's decision to cut its diplomatic ties with Syria, saying that international struggle against the countries supporting terrorism is imperative for humanity.

The Cabinet approved the proposal of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to accept the pope's call to announce 27 October as a day when there is a world-wide cease fire. The Cabinet heard the defense minister's briefing on routine issues and approved a series of appointments of directors general.

Shamir on UK Decision, War Against Terrorism

TA261945 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said this evening that he hoped the break in relations between Britian and Syria will become a precedent that will isolate countries involved in terrorism from the family of nations. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren was speaking with the prime minister.

[Begin video recording] [Shamir] This is a very important and positive development. Israel has always argued that the support the terrorist organizations receive from countries is an important element in their activities and a condition for their success. The terrorist organizations cannot stage successful activities and operations without the assistance of countries. Therefore, the emphasis should be on preventing countries from abetting terrorist actions. This can be attained by taking steps against these countries so that they reconsider and arrive at the conclusion that it is not worth their while to engage in such activities. This is exactly what Britain did and, of course, the United States and Canada are helping.

[Goren] Sir, how can other countries be made to join this circle, in your opinion?

[Shamir] I leave that to Britain, which will probably attempt to persuade its colleagues in the EEC, and to the United States, which will certainly do its share.

[Goren] What is Israel's role in the wake of this recent development?

[Shamir] Israel has been waging its own war against terrorism for years and has been leading the way. Well, after all you cannot ask me to have Israel break off its relations with Syria. [end recording]

Peres Praises Thatcher Decision on Break With Syria

TA260954 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1556 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today expressed his appreciation for the move taken by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher [to sever diplomatic relations with Syria].

[Begin Peres recording] Israel will be a faithful partner in the struggle against terrorism, which threatens human lives, the well- being of countries, and the safety of international transportation. I very much appreciate the move taken by Mrs Thatcher as another step in the fight against international terrorism. [end recording]

Sharon Lauds UK, Slams French Arms Deal

TA260600 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0515 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Interview with Minister Ari'el Sharon by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami — live over telephone]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Good morning, Mr Sharon.

[Sharon] Good morning.

[Ben-'Ami] In your reaction you said the decision of the British Government was courageous. What did you mean?

[Sharon] I am glad that the free world is beginning to understand that we cannot accept nor compromise with terrorism. Terrorism, and those who aid and harbor terrorists, must be fought by all the necessary means, everywhere and at all times. The British Government, and Mrs Thatcher who heads it, acted courageously and responsibly in deciding to sever relations with Syria, in which most of the headquarters of Palestinian terrorism are currently located. France would be wise not to supply weapons to Syria, because this will increase Syria's aggressiveness and its military capabilities. France should not repeat the mistake it made several years ago, when it supplied Iraq with a nuclear reactor. At the time it claimed that it was not meant for the production of nuclear arms, but this was not true, just as the current claim saying that the weapons under discussion now are defensive is not true.

[Ben-'Ami] Minister Sharon, can you state what the advantage in this isolation is? Can the isolation which the West is trying to force upon Syria ensure a decrease in terrorism?

[Sharon] Many steps have to be taken against terrorism: Political and diplomatic steps, just as Britain has done now, by isolating any Arab country — and in the Middle East we are currently mainly speaking about Syria and Libya; economic steps, preventing any trade and any benefits to these countriews, not to buy from them and not to sell to them. These steps, once taken, will isolate countries which aid and support terrorism, and are likely to make it unnecessary to take military steps, which, however, must be prepared for. We are speaking here of fighting international terrorism, which is almost always connected with Palestinian terrorism. We ourselves have been conducting this struggle for many years now. However, in order to combat international terrorism there must be an action by Western democracies, mainly the United States, the leader of the free world. If these steps are indeed taken it is very possible that terrorism will decrease sharply. I hope that following the steps taken by Britain, and I hope that other countries will follow suit, Israel too, which is the main victim of Palestinian terrorism — which has been directed against us for more than 100 years — pressure will be exerted on Jordan and Egypt in order to completely close the offices and headquarters of the PLO and to expel the PLO people, just as I have proposed and demanded for the last 2 years.

French Clarification Sought on Weapons Sale to Syria

TA261101 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
26 Oct 86 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Israel will seek from the French Government clarification and explanation regarding the reports tht it intends to sell weapons to Syria.

Political sources in Jerusalem told *Davar* that Israel is following with great concern the reports in the newpaper *Liberation* according to which the French Government plans to sign a huge weapons deal with Syria amounting to 3 billion francs.

'Ovadya Sofer, Israel's ambassador in Paris, will be asked to contact the French Foreign Ministry in order to receive clarifications on this issue. If it transpires that the reports are true, Israel will protest against the deal and ask that it be canceled. The sources emphasized that France must not supply weapons to Syria, which is planning for war against Israel. It will be hard to understand such a move at a time when Britain and the West are isolating Syria because of its support of terrorism.

'Secret Information' Helped Thatcher Reach Decision

TA260942 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
26 Oct 86 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Israel passed secret information to Britain on Syria's direct responsibility for the attempted attack on the El Al plane. This information was one of the factors that caused British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to cut diplomatic relations with Syria.

According to senior political sources in Israel, the amazing information revealed during the Hindawi trial, which linked Syria directly to the attempted attack on the El Al plane, was not new to British security services and to Prime Minister Thatcher. The sources say that Israel had revealed to the British a detailed Syrian plan, apparently with the knowledge of Syrian President al-Asad, for the attack. An intelligence officer who is a member of the Syrian Air Force headed the team which prepared the attack, and it was through him that the Syrian Embassy in London activated the terrorist Hindawi. The information conveyed by Israel to Britain details the direct links between Syria and Libya on the one hand and international terrorist organizations, mainly Abu Nidal's organization, on the other.

The sources assessed that the British prime minister waited for the London court decision prior to making a decision on political action against Syria.

Morning Press Editorials Praise British Action

TA260640 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0430 GMT 26 Oct 86

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Text] *The Jerusalem Post* writes that Britain had one of its finest and most courageous hours this weekend. It showed the entire world that one should not and cannot flinch from action out of fear. In light of London's courageous and fearless action, the major French-Syrian arms deal, which was formally confirmed over the weekend, deserves the severest condemnation by the entire European community. Paris, which itself has suffered greatly from a recent wave of terrorist attacks, must find a way to cancel this deal if it wants to remain a respectable member of the community.

'Al Hamishmar writes that Britain should not be the only one to sever its diplomatic relations with Syria. All the peace-seeking countries should do so. Only the complete political isolation of the present Syrian regime might bring about some kind of sobering up in this country, which directly threatens world peace. France's attempt to embrace Damascus, thus moving it away from the Soviet Union, is politically wrong and morally insane. Embracing murderers will not turn them into civilized people, but rather strengthen their destructiveness. We expect the French to quikly change their policy vis-a-vis the Syrians, and that they, as well as the other Western countries, will boycott the Syrian regime.

Davar says that the Soviet attacks on the British Government will not help them win over Western public opinion. A superpower which protects criminals who endanger the Western public, this to protect its own narrow interests, cannot expect to gain the support of this public in agreements between the blocs and in the concessions which such agreements entail.

Ha'aretz writes that the Syrian regime has been exposed naked during the Hindawi trial. Over the years Hafiz al-Asad has been attempting to follow two parallel paths, which in his opinion are not mutually exclusive: Maintaining the cease-fire agreement on the Golan Heights, and at the same time activating the terror machine against Israel in Europe. It is impossible to say whether the Syrian leader will reconsider his ways, whether he will stop terrorism, or rather insist on continuing it out of the conviction that the Soviet Union will continue to support his country, just as it has done until now. The decision is his, but he must be made to understand that Israel will not permit him to initiate, plan, and carry out terror acts just because he is not preventing the UN force on the Golan Heights from carrying out its mission.

Midday Press Editorials Praise Britain

TA260949 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Review of midday press editorials]

[Text] All of the newspapers write about Britain's decision to cut diplomatic relations with Syria, praising it for this step. *Ma'ariv* writes that it is a courageous step, and Israel, as well, has something to learn from the British.

Ma'ariv says Britain demonstrated a determination that we sometimes lack. Israel would demonstrate a firmer policy against terrorism by deciding to impose the death penalty on murderers.

Hadashot expresses appreciation for Britain, saying the British step will be meaningful only if it is accompanied by more action by the Western countries.

Yedi'ot Aharonot also believes that the lesson learned by the British is still not the possession of all the free world, recalling that France does not plan any similar action, although its soil is soaked with the blood of terrorism's victims.

Jerusalem Arabic on Break in Syrian-UK Relations

JN261618 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 26 Oct 86

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear Listeners: Britain's decision to sever diplomatic relations with Syria and to expel the Syrian ambassador from London is undoubtedly a painful slap in the face for the Damascus rulers, particularly to President Hafiz al-Asad. However, the extent of pain and the echo of this slap can be measured by the convulsive cries and slanders being made by Damascus and its news media.

And now, after Syria has been exposed to the world and after it has been proved that it is effectively involved in international terrorism in light of the trial of terrorist Nizar Hindawi, Damascus and its news media are making desperate attempts to hide its involvement and its flagrant lies by telling more exposed and blatant lies.

Damascus sometimes talk about hellish plots against the Arab nation from the Gulf to the ocean and other times casts doubts about the honesty of the British judiciary, whose honesty and justice have international fame and reputation. Damascus and its news media are also threatening Britain. These Syrian cries and propagandistic campaigns will not hide Syria's involvement in terrorism or the British judiciary's condemnation of Syria as a terrorist state and regime through its sentencing of terrorist criminal Nizar Hindawi, who confessed he acted on orders from Syrian intelligence and that the Syrian Embassy in London was the center of his contacts for planning and perpetrating his terrorist acts.

In fact, the importance of the British judiciary's condemnation of Syria as a terrorist state lies in the fact that it is an official judicial confirmation, supported by indisputable legal evidence, of a fact which is known by everyone who does not want to bury his head in the sand.

At any rate, the important question is not whether Syria is a terrorist state, because this is a well known fact further established by the British judiciary. The important question is how do we interpret the clear contradiction between the fact that terrorist Nizar Hindawi acted under orders from and for Syrian intelligence and that President Hafiz al-Asad swore by all that is right and holy that his regime had no relationship whatsoever with Nizar Hindawi. What is more harmful is that President al-Asad stressed more than once his regime opposes terrorism and condemns all hateful and ugly forms of terrorism. Moreover, President al-Asad described terrorist acts against unarmed civilians and passenger planes as being cowardly actions and inhuman crimes.

However things may be, there are only two interpretations of the flagrant aforementioned contradiction. Either President al-Asad is a professional liar who lies to the whole world without restraint or shame or he is ignorant of Syrian intelligence's terrorist acts and activities in various parts of the world. Both interpretations are painful. The first interpretation is clear and there is no need to dot the i's.

However, the second interpretation indicates that affairs in Syria have reached a point where President al-Asad does not know what is taking place in his regime, that the right hand does not know what the left hand is doing, or that Syrian intelligence has established a state within a state of their own or through cooperation with certain forces which seek to involve President al-Asad and shake his regime.

DAVAR Praises Thatcher's 'Iron Decision'

TA261100 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 26 Oct 86 p 7

[Commentary by Dror Sharvit: "An Iron Decision"]

[Text] British media, officials, and commentators explain Margaret Thatcher's unequivocal decision to cut diplomatic relations with Syria as a clash between two hard metals: Thatcher-iron with Al-Asad-steel. The assessment is that the speed and determination that characterized the way in which the decision was taken indicate that Hindawi's trial enabled the British Government to prepare for a move on which Thatcher had probably decided prior to the verdict, when she learned, from Israeli sources among others, that there was indeed a Syrian conspiracy in the attempt to blow up an El Al plane last April. That is, the sharp move taken by Thatcher was one she saw beforehand.

Despite the well known traditional position of the British Foreign Ministry, Thatcher remained firm in her unequivocal decision to act against terrorism. Libya was the first one to suffer, and now Syria has been hit even harder.

Syria's involvement in the attempted attack put the British Government, even before the trial had begun, in a serious dilemma: How to conciliate between an unequivocal policy against terrorism and the countries which support it, and between the fear of loosing an important diplomatic link in the Middle East.

Britain, which is experienced with Irish terrorism, is taking, contrary to other European countries, a firm policy against international terrorism. This is not its first attempt to lead the EEC countries in a firm and determined struggle against terrorism, and to introduce wider cooperation against it. This time the move was apparently coordinated mostly with the United States. Despite the fact that there is no confirmation for this so far, it appears that Washington's decision to recall its ambassador from Damascus was not a mere improvisation following Thatcher's move, but rather a move coordinated beforehand.

The firm line against Syria was embraced despite voices emanating from the British Foreign Ministry, who claim that Syria has a central role in the Middle East and is a key factor in any regional settlement, and that Syria controls a large portion of Lebanon and has tight links with various terror organizations. Senior officials claim that Britain, which seeks to maintain a strategic influence, stands to loose not only from severing relations, but even from lowering the level of relations with Syria. These officials claim, and Thatcher is certainly aware of this, that the decision might result in the loss of an important focus of influence in the Middle East, which will necessarily force Britain to leave Lebanon. British civilians and assets in the Middle East will be exposed more than ever to terrorism by organizations under Syrian control. Other Arab countries, perhaps even Saudi Arabia, will feel themselves obliged to cool their relations with Britain in order to demonstrate their solidarity with Damascus, and British flights to the Far East will have to change their routes, which will cost a fortune.

However, there have been no voices in London complaining that the "Syrian affair" is a pro-Israel move. Thatcher is demonstrating that the fight against Arab terrorism is not an Israeli affair only, mainly because not only Israel is hurt by it. This point of view, which is so Israeli, has been received here very well.

Shamir Interviewed on Political, Domestic Issues

TA240957 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Oct 86 p 5

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by diplomatic correspondent Benny Morris; in Shamir's office "three days after taking office"]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, three days in office, says he hopes and believes that "the raucous noises" recently heard against the continuation of the national unity government are "a passing episode," and that the second-stage national unity government will last out its appointed 25 months in office.

Shamir appears relaxed in his old-new office. Hubbub fills the Prime Minister's Office, as painters, electricians, builders and architects refashion the surrounding rooms to suit the needs of the new regime.

"I feel good here, I know the office," says Shamir, reflecting upon his first, brief stint as premier in 1983-84. Now "the problems, politically, are more complex, because of the nature of the national unity government, and these things must be taken into account." It is too early to say how things will turn out, and "it isn't only up to me."

Shamir speaks rather vaguely of "the inherent difficulties and issues" in the unity government, preferring not to pinpoint them. "I don't have to look for them. There are people who will do this. I must overcome them." The main potential stumbling block is "the political issue, (Labour-Likud differences) over the conditions of peace for a peace settlement ... but so long as there is no proposal from the Arab side that culd be accepted by part of the government, there is no reason that could prevent the continued existence of the government. Perhaps this is an incentive for the Arabs, because perhaps there are those among them who are not interested in the continued existence of the unity government ... What they have to do is offer an incentive," he says half-jokingly.

But "so long as they stand on the ... Fez Plan, they have no chance. Here is an incentive (for them to offer a peace proposal). But Fez is not an incentive.

We turn to another potential pitfall to the national unity government — the settlements issue. Shamir has recently come under pressure from Tehiya and from within his own party to launch a new mass settlement drive. The premier says that there is "the coalition agreement ... which commits the government to the existence and development of all the existing settlements and that as to the establishment of new settlements, the cabinet must decide... The government is committed to the establishment of all those settlements already decided upon by previous governments but the Cabinet must decide on the implementation and timing."

How many such settlements are there, planned and approved by previous governments, which must still be set up? "This is of no importance. We don't count the settlements."

But there are people who count them.

"Let them count. This is not the main thing. We are interested in the enlargement of Jewish settlement...beyond the green line. That's the main thing. There could be differences of opinion in the Cabinet over this, but so long as we act within the framework of the coalition agreement, I don't think this will result in a crisis."

What about party pressures on you? "There is only one pressure that weighs with me, and that is the dictate of my conscience. I don't take account of any other pressures."

We turn to the problem of relations with the Soviet Union and Soviet Jewry. Who is responsible for policy in this sphere?

"Look, there are accepted patterns, norms of work on this sphere. The prime minister is responsible...I control and handle the subject."

What about Minister-without-portfolio Arens? "Look, this was published (that Arens would become the overall director of government policy in this sphere). He can assist me in this, and the other ministers can assist. But, in principle, the matter remains within the jurisdiction of the Prime Minister's Office...the Foreign Ministry deals with relations with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, as, of course, does the Prime Minister's Office."

Shamir says he has "no differences with Peres on how to deal with the issue of Soviet Jewry and relations with the Soviet Union," and he denies that there are "differences of principle" between himself and Arens. He concedes that there were differences over "one tactical move" - the Helsinki talks in August between Israeli and Soviet officials - between himself and Arens. "One shouldn't pay too much attention to various statements. It's a hot subject. So there are different statements."

Shamir hopes that Soviet policy on Jewish emigration will "soon" change. He believes that the present policy "serves no important Soviet interest and, indeed, causes them great harm, in terms of world public opinion, harms their relations with the U.S. and is an internal nuisance. There were years when many Jews were allowed out. How did this harm the Soviet Union?"

Jewish emigration to Israel, as opposed to movement to elsewhere in the world, should be more acceptable to the Soviets "because they have always supported national rights, recognized the connection between nationhood and homeland.

"They are suffering, and we need them," says Shamir of Soviet Jewry. He does not know how many would opt to come to Israel if they could, "but there is no doubt that they are many."

As Mrs. Shulamit Shamir had recently visited her native Bulgaria and greately enjoyed her trip (Shamir agreed), I ask the Russian-born prime minister if he, too, perhaps has a craving to see the landscapes of his childhood. "No, I don't miss them. If the opportunity arises... maybe. It would be pleasant."

Shamir calls the absence of Israeli-Soviet relations an anomaly. "It doesn't make sense," he says. "I am sure it will change. Anomalies must end. When I met (former Soviet foreign minister Andrei) Gromyko, I asked him how come Moscow has relations with many countries with which it does not share the same system or foreign policy goals — but not with Israel? He had no answer. All he said was that "the Middle East is different." I ask: "Is that an answer?"

The Soviets obviously are taking into account Arab reactions and pressures, says the prime minister, and are afraid for their influence in the Middle East. "But it is clear as daylight to them that if they wish to fill a role in any diplomatic process in the region, they will not attain this without relations with Israel. The U.S. has a major advantage over the Soviet Union, because it has relations with both sides."

Soviet-Israeli relations would not be a function of Soviet- American relations, says Shamir. "They don't establish ties because they want to do someone a favour, to do the U.S. a favour, for instance, but because it conforms with their interests."

On the subject of getting new Middle East peace talks off the ground, the premier declines to go into details. "Of course, there are all sorts of ideas but our aim is to reach serious and direct negotiations with our neighbours, primarily Jordan. But as long as the matter is only theoretical, it won't serve any purpose to speak of these ideas. There are so many parties interested in preventing any development in this direction."

Some people believe that Yitzhaq Shamir is not keen on negotiations with Jordan? "This is not true. I told you, I am interested."

No "international forum" can come in place of direct negotiations, says Shamir, repeating his inaugural Knesset address. "Nor would it lead to direct negotiations." Efforts to launch an international conference will only make the possibility of direct talks more remote, he says. "Recent Syrian statements rule out direct negotiations with Israel. They call for an international conference instead. So they regard the two things as contradictory. They oppose direct talks and so want an international conference which excludes direct talks... For them the international forum idea is an excuse — a way to avoid direct talks. They don't want an international forum.

"Anyway, it hasn't been decided or finalized yet what the international forum means — what its nature will be, who will participate — so there is no reason to talk about it as something defined, to which one can object or which one can support. I say only that it can't come in place of direct talks. Theoretically, if you like, I can conceive that after we reach an agreement with our neighbours, we shall decide on some sort of international gathering that will give effect to what was decided among us. Then, we will be after an agreement. Maybe. But it isn't realistic, because we havent't yet reached the first, the main stage."

The Arabs and the Soviets talk about "an inter-national conference," says Shamir, not as mere "trappings" for a negotiation but in order to "decide on the future of the area, on a settlement. This is what I oppose, as does the U.S....and Peres."

Shamir remains unhappy with the present state of Israeli-Egyptian relations. "The process of normalization is not speedy enough to my taste." Shamir wants closer relations between the "peoples" of the two countries, to be expressed in more trade and tourism. He also continues to worry about the Egyptian media's treatment of Israel which, he says "only very slightly" has improved in recent weeks. He believes the media in Egypt - "unlike in Israel" - play a key role in "educating the younger generation" and "reflect more accurately than in Israel the thinking of the ruling elite."

Shamir denies that Israel deliberately dragged out the negotiations over Tabah. "The Egyptians were very hard, and so it went on and on. And, in any case, there is exaggeration in this matter, as generally negotiations about arbitration compromis between countries take a long time, often longer than we took."

Shamir believes Israel has "a good case" for claiming sovereignty over the disputed Tabah border zone and hopes Israel will win. "It is important to us that we win. Why not? I rebel against these questions. Try to ask a Frenchman or an Englishman if he is willing to give up 100 metres of his territory. Why do we treat the matter contemptuously? And for France and England, what is 100 metres?"

The premier remains worried about Syria, which, he says, has "deep enmity towards Israel, which is expressed in enormous investment in building up its army and indoctrination of its population towards confrontations."

But Shamir says there is "no such thing as an inevitable conflict," referring to a recent statement by an IDF general, OC [Commanding Officer] Northern Command Yosi Peled, that war between Israel and Syria is inevitable within two to three years. The Syrians must be deterred from war or change their policy, he says.

Shamir seems untroubled by the prospect of the convening of a second-stage Herut Party convention, which he believes will take place "soon". He declines to suggest an approximate date. He does not believe, he says, that there will be any renewed effort to dislodge him from the party leadership but generally he appears not to want to expand on the subject.

He describes his relations with Peres as "good and correct" but declines to delve further into the subject. "They allow cooperation, which is what's important."

Two subjects prompted Shamir to bristle and close up like a porcupine - the General Security Service (Shin Bet) affair and the Va'nunu (Dimona nuclear reactor) affair.

On the Shin Bet affair, all Shamir was willing to say was that he believes "the government handled it correctly" but was unwilling to comment further as the matter is currently under investigation.

BILD Interview With Prime Minister Shamir

DW271055 Hamburg BILD in German
27 Oct 86 pp 1,2

["Exclusive" interview with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by *Bild* reporter Stephan Vogel in Shamir's office; date not given]

[Text] Israel's new prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, advocates "disruption of diplomatic relations with all countries that support terrorists." "Great Britain, the United States, and Canada have just set a good example. All countries should follow that example." In saying that, Shamir includes Bonn's relations with Syria. His argument? "These representations and embassies are the center of terrorist activities." Why? "The diplomatic courier is the best means to transport weapons. Terrorists could not carry out effective attacks without the help of foreign governments. Diplomatic immunity and privileges are being used to support terror. That must be prevented."

Bild: What do you expect from the West?

Shamir: The West must exchange the information gathered by its intelligence services and coordinate all measures against terrorists — including with Israel. If it works we will have taken a considerable step against terrorists.

Bild: What role does the PLO play in international terrorism?

Shamir: The PLO is the most important Arab terrorist organization and thus the leader of international terrorism. For that reason, we cannot negotiate with it about peace.

Bild: In Bonn and in other countries there are PLO bureaus...

Shamir: I am very much concerned about that. We have asked the Federal Government and other European countries repeatedly to prohibit the bureaus. Even if no direct terrorist attacks emanate from them, such a base helps the terrorists in their actions.

Bild: Does Israel have the atomic bomb as the *Sunday Times* has reported?

Shamir: We shall not be the first to use the atomic bomb.

Bild: That was not my question...

Shamir:... But my answer.

Bild: What do you have to say about the fact that prosecution of the Volksgerichthof [Nazi court] members has been discontinued?

Shamir: Nobody may draw a final line under those horrible crimes — not because of the elapsed time,the age of the people involved, or the statutes of limitation. Prosecution must continue.

Shamir Receives Congratulations From Papandreou

TA241033 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
24 Oct 86 p 2

[Report by Refa'el Mann]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday received a letter from Greek Prime Minister Papandreou in which the latter congratulates Shamir upon entering office.

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office regarded this with special interest, in view of Papandreou's critical stance toward Israel and his support of the PLO. [passage omitted]

Shamir Office Refuses Request for Inquiry on Vanunu

TA261927 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Excerpts] The Prime Minister's Office here in Israel has turned down a request by Australian clergyman John Mcknight for an appointment to inquire about his friend, Mordekhay Vanunu. At a news conference in Jerusalem today, Mcknight said he was informed by solid sources that Vanunu, who had reportedly leaked Israeli nuclear secrets, was being held in the country. [passage omitted]

Shamir's spokesman, Avi Pazner, confirmed that Mcknight had requested an appointment but said it would be useless as the office had nothing to tell him and knew nothing of the matter.

Ties Forming With PRC in Military-Defense Sphere

TA241154 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Oct 86 pp 1, 7

[Report by correspondent in London]

[Text] China's attitude toward Israel has improved recently, and it is now closer than ever to a decision on establishing diplomatic relations with Israel. This was disclosed in London yesterday.

According to the report, secret meetings have recently been held between the representatives of the two countries in Paris, with the participation of Avraham Tamir, who is now Foreign Ministry director general.

According to the London report, Israel is supplying China with laser sights for their most sophisticated tank, the T-69, and there are reports on other ties in the military-defense sphere. As proof of this the London reports point to the visit of the director general of Israel Aircraft Industries to China.

According to the reports, China is interested in facilitating the establishment of formal ties with Israel. The Chinese themselves say that an international conference on the Middle East might make it easier for them to implement this.

For the time being Beijing is hesitant and is waiting for the next steps by the Soviet Union and Eastern bloc countries in this regard.

Ivory Coast Embassy Transfer to Tel Aviv Regretted

TA261853 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Excerpts] The Ivory Coast says it intends to transfer its embassy from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv. The move follows a recent recommendation by the Arab League that its members break ties with the Ivory Coast over the decision to site its embassy in Jerusalem. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the decision to leave the capital is disappointing and hopes the move would be temporary. [passage omitted] Although no mention was made of the Arab threat, the decision to move came after a long speech by President Houphouet-Boigny which stressed the state of Ivory Coast's relations with Israel and the Arab states. Here in Jerusalem the Foreign Ministry has expressed regret at the announcement and added the hope that the day will come when the embassy returns to the capital.

Embassy Not Moving 'Yet'

TA270937 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] The Ivorian Embassy in Jerusalem has not yet begun preparing for the move from the capital. This is reported by our correspondent Nicholas Rosenbaum. Ivorian Ambassador Jean-Pierre Boni explained the reasons for the move to our correspondent, saying that in politics it is very often necessary to shift the chess pieces around the board to preserve a country's vital interests. Ambassador Boni said that some media reports in Israel were inaccurate and announced that the Ivory Coast had opened an embassy in Jerusalem, whereas in fact the embassy building was merely reopened.

POST on U.S.-Israeli Relations Under Shamir

TA241007 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Oct 86 p 20

[Commentary by Wolf Blitzer: "Exploiting Washington's Perceptions"]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Shamir and President Reagan are scheduled to remain in office for roughly the same amount of time — two more years. This fact should be at the very top of Shamir's thinking now that he has assumed the no. 1 job in Jerusalem.

Shamir, as prime minister, has an unusually good opportunity to solidify U.S.-Israel relations in all sorts of critical ways during the next two years. What happens during this period can certainly help to shape events way down the road. Trends can be set in motion now which will be very difficult for future American administrations — perhaps not as pro-Israeli in their basic orientation — to reverse.

From Israel's point of view, it would be a tragic waste to squander this golden opportunity by foolishly irritating the U.S.

The combination of Reagan, Secretary of State George Shultz and other key policy-makers probably represents the most pro-Israel American leadership in history. Yes, there are occasional differences between Washington and Jerusalem, especially in the area of U.S. arms sales to "moderate" Arab states. But the broad areas of agreement nowadays far outweigh those disagreements.

Reagan and Shultz, backed by National Security Adviser John Poindexter, Central Intelligence Agency Director William Casey, and to a lesser degree Vice President George Bush, White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan and even Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, have come to regard Israel as a major friend and ally. They also believe that Israel, to a large degree, has emerged as an important strategic asset in containing the Soviet Union and in combating terrorism.

During the last two years, while Peres served as prime minister, the Americans came to regard the Arabs as the primary obstacle standing in the way of a revived peace process. Israel was seen as flexible and reasonable in demanding direct, face-to-face negotiations. This image helps to explain the upturn in American-Israeli ties.

Thus, Reagan, Shultz and company have continued their policy of "institutionalizing" close relations with Israel in a whole host of areas.

On the economic front, for example, there is the U.S.-Israel Free Trade Area agreement - a far-ranging trade liberalization development that will totally remove all trade obstacles between the two countries over the next few years. Israel export opportunities in the U.S. will be expanded.

In addition, Shultz has promoted routine American-Israel consultations on other ways to strengthen the Israel economy. A bureaucratic framework has been set up to meet this objective.

Shamir would be wise to keep the Israel economic recovery programme on track. The Americans, especially Shultz, have been very impressed by Israel's economic turn-around these past two years. Yet they are yearning for continued economic reforms designed to promote real growth and greater productivity.

The same U.S.-Israel "institutionalization" is true on the military strategic level of relations. There is a joint American- Israel working group on political-military affairs. Teams of military and diplomatic officials meet regularly to coordinate strategic cooperation. Many details remain classified. But by all accounts, things are moving dramatically ahead.

On the military level, therefore, the U.S. and Israel are doing things today - quietly, without a lot of fanfare - that they have never done before. The damage from the Jonathan Jay Pollard spy scandal has been contained. Any negative Arab reaction to this enhanced military relationship has also been contained.

Shultz has told friends that before leaving office, he wants to further strengthen these bilateral forums. He wants to make sure that they become part of the bureaucratic woodwork in Washington - difficult, if not impossible, for future policy-makers to eliminate. But in order to do so, the secretary will need Israel's full cooperation. That is the message being sent to Shamir.

Israel's best friends in Washington outside the administration - Senators and Congressmen as well as American Jewish political activists - recognize the golden opportunity that currently exists. In various ways, they are passing along their own messages to Shamir and the new cast of characters occupying the Prime Ministers's Office.

The Americans acknowledge the politics of the real world - the often-times conflicting pressures that will come to bear on Shamir. What is popular in Washington may not be so popular among his Likud followers.

Will the prime minister risk alienating a very friendly Reagan administration, Congress and American public opinion in order to appease the right wing of the political spectrum in Jerusalem? That remains to be seen.

But there is no doubt that the stakes for Israel are high, especially in very practical areas of American economic and military support. Israel still has much to gain from Washington.

The perception of Israel as reasonable and responsible, for example, can have a tremendous influence on the U.S. decision-making process in the weeks and months ahead. If Israel plays its card right, there could be a reduction in the prevailing interest rates on outstanding U.S. military loans. Once again, key lawmakers are working with the administration to determine if some sort of creative bookkeeping formula might be found to cut those interest rates in half.

Congress, led by Democratic Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii and Republican Senator Bob Kasten of Wisconsin, was well on its way toward doing exactly that issue late last year. Israel would have won an initial bonanza of over $500 million. But Pollard was arrested and over-night, the political climate changed. It was not seen as a good time to reward Israel. The Inouye-Kasten initiative was shelved.

Yet now things are back to normal. If Shamir and the Israel government maintain the flexible posture projected by Peres these past two years, they have a very good chance of getting that interest-reduction process back on track.

That will require some good sense in Jerusalem. Talk of expanding West Bank settlements — even if largely a rhetorical device to appease Herut hardliners - can be extremely damaging. Perception often is more important than reality. The image of a stubborn Israel, so often portrayed when Menahem Begin was prime minister, can have a devastating impact on American attitudes toward Israel.

Shamir is not a complete unknown in Washington. He was, after all, prime minister for just over a year after Begin resigned. And he has served as foreign minister as well.

It was in November 1983, under Shamir and then-defence minister Moshe Arens, that the U.S. and Israel signed their strategic cooperation agreement. That has certainly set in motion a positive tone in terms of the bilateral relationship.

But so much more can be done. The Reagan administration, and bipartisan majorities in the Senate and House of Representatives are inclined to move in that direction. A new era in the American-Israel alliance is possible — one that will result in the expanded prepositioning of U.S. military equipment in Israel.

There is also the pending Israel request for "major non-NATO" military status — something that would open greater opportunities for Israel defence contractors to win lucrative Pentagon contacts. Israel would also become eligible for lower prices in purchasing American planes, tanks and other advanced weaponry. [passage omitted]

The Americans, in recent years, have become increasingly frustrated by the Arabs. On that, there can be no doubt. Arab oil clout is also no longer as potent as it once was. This strategic shift has certainly benefited Israel. Shamir, as prime minister, can capitalize on all of these developments. A truly strengthened American-Israel connection is the prize.

Thousands Celebrate Jewish Settlement in Gaza

TA260605 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Thousands of Jews attended the second Hakafot, the celebration of the Torah, at the settlement of Neve Deqalim in the Gaza Strip. The people, including Trade and Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon, and about half a dozen other Knesset members, dance with the Torah scrolls in both a religious celebration and a demonstration of support for Jewish settlement in the territories. Steve Rodan was at the Gaza celebration.

[Begin Rodan recording] The Jews came from all over the country with nearly all of the males wearing the white-knit scullcaps that have come to signify the uniform of the Jewish settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. But while the young men and women danced to the music of a Hassidic rock band, settlement leaders were watching for the politicians, and there were no surprises. A half dozen Knesset members attended the celebration, half of them members of the rightwing Tehiya party, Rabbi Hayim Druckman of the now defunct Morasha, and two members of the Likud. They were promptly given Torah scrolls to dance the honorary first round in the Hakafot celebration.

After the dancing came the speaches, and Trade and Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon, who has become the darling of the settlement movement, spoke. He said that no Israeli government can ban Jews from any part of the Biblical land of Israel and despite the ban by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Sharon expressed confidence that next year the Hakafot celebration would take place in the heart of Arab Gaza.

In addition to demonstrating support for Jewish settlement, last night's celebration also served as a showcase for the 15 Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip. After a decade of settlement the Jewish population here is about 2,000, but with at least 5,000 people at the event, settlement leaders hope that all the publicity will result in a lot more people moving out here. [end recording]

OAU Chairman, Libyan Envoy Discuss Chad

AB241020 Paris AFP in French 2239 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Text] Brazzaville, 23 Oct (AFP) — Sa'id Hafiyana, who is in charge of foreign liaison for the Libyan General People's Congress, the sole party, said in Brazzaville on Thursday, at the end of a meeting with the current OAU chairman, Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, that the Chadian conflict is "an African problem that must be solved by the Chadians themselves."

After disclosing that his talks with President Sassou-Nguesso were on bilateral issues, the Chadian conflict, and the situation in southern Africa, especially following the death of Mozambican President Samora Machel, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's envoy blamed Pretoria for the accident that killed the Mozambican leader.

Southern Africa Gets International Aid Pledges

AU251507 Paris AFP in English 0502 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Brussels, Oct 25 (AFP) — Southern African states won pledges of some 200 million dollars of international aid here Friday to help their efforts to become economically independent of white- ruled South Africa.

The money — negotiated over two days of talks with 25 countries and intergovernmental organizations — will go to revamp the Mozambican port of Beira and the so-called Beira corridor, the strip of land which passes through mountains to give landlocked Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia trade access to the sea without crossing South African territory.

Half of the aid will come from Europe, including 45 million dollars from the European Economic Community and the rest from Holland, Italy, Denmark and Scandinavian countries.

Only one Eastern European state, East Germany, has agreed to contribute — five million dollars. The United States has pledged the same amount. The African Development Bank will supply 30 million dollars.

Mozambican delegate Rui Fonseca said afterwards that the corridor was well defended by thousands of Mozambican and Zimbabwean troops against frequent attacks on it by South African-backed anti- government rebels.

The talks brought together Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, Angola, Lesotho, Malani, Botswana and Swaziland — all members of the Southern African Development Cooperation Conference.

The meeting was told the revamping of the corridor would cost 500 million dollars. The aim is to nearly triple the daily amount of goods transported through it within three years, to some 8,000 tonnes a day. The repairs will include rock installations, railway lines and roads.

ALGERIA

Foreign Ministry Statement Supports Syria

LD262002 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] In the wake of the severance of diplomatic relations between Britain and Syria, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has published the following statement:

The fraternal Republic of Syria is at present being exposed to isolation attempts and to threats of aggressions. The justifications used to back these attempts have not been convincing and have not convinced anybody because their real aim differs completely from what their claims.

These attempts come within the framework of a continuous campaign of pressure and provocation, the only aim of which is to force Syria to give up the eminent position which it has in the Arab-Zionist confrontation arena.

Even more basic is the fact that these attempts are an indivisible part of a large-scale operation aimed at the Arab nation as a whole: to force it to give up its legitimate rights and compel it to give concessions which it is still refusing to give.

Under these circumstances, Algeria expresses its solidarity with fraternal Syria and affirms to it its complete support.

President Bendjedid Receives Libya's Jallud

LD252111 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1330 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Excerpts] Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud of Libya arrived in algiers this afternoon for a 1-day working visit. [passage omitted] Major Jallud is to have a series of meetings with Algerian officials on bilateral relations and various political matters of common interest to both countries. Major Jallud was received a short time ago by President Chadli Bendjedid.

Tripoli Reports Jallud Statement

LD251405 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and members of his delegation arrived in Algiers at noon today on a working visit to continue the efforts for unity between the Arab people in the two fraternal countries, the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria.

He was welcomed at Houari Boumediene airport by Brothers Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, FLN Political Bureau member and official in charge of the FLN Permanent Secretariat; Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Algerian foreign minister, and Algerian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyan.

In a statement to the Algerian press Jallud affirmed the inevitability of the realization of Arab unity in order to confront the dangers threatening the Arab nation. He affirmed the need for the Arab people of Algeria to play their pan-Arab role in this stage.

He said that the visit aims at following up the issue of unity as the most urgent issue of the present, and precisely the proposed unity between Libya and Algeria. He added that the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria are the most alike among the Arab countries. He said: We believe that a Pan-Arab upsurge demands a pan-Arab leadership. He pointed out that the only thing that can defend the existence of this nation is unity.

Jallud added: The Arab nation is being exposed to an annihilation attempt. We are now approaching 1 November [the anniversary of the Algerian revolution], and we must seek inspiration from this anniversary. We and the great Algerian people have a great asset for the Arab nation from this anniversary. The Algerian people are asked today to use this asset for the defense of this nation which supported them during their struggle agianst the French occupation.

Delegations End Discussions

LD261446 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] This morning the Libyan Arab and Algerian delegations held their final working session. Present were Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and members of the Libyan Arab delegation accompanying him, Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the FLN Political Bureau and official in charge of the permanent secretariat of the FLN, and Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi.

Discussions during the meeting covered various aspects of common solidarity between the two fraternal countries in the economic field — discussions for the good of the Arab nation.

A joint working session was held in Algiers last night by the Libyan Arab and Algerian delegations. The session was attended by Staff Maj 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud; Algerian Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi; members of the Libyan Arab delegation accompanying Staff Major Jallud; Algerian ministers of finance, energy and petrochemical industries; Algerian ambassador to the Jamahiriyah; and members of the Libyan Arab Fraternity Bureau in Algeria.

Jallud Leaves Algiers After Visit

LD262048 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Excerpts] Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the Revolution Command Council of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, left Algiers this evening. [passage omitted]

It is worth mentioning that Staff Major Jallud arrived in Algiers yesterday at the head of an important delegation consisting of a number of members of the Libyan Peoples' Committees on an official visit to Algeria during which he conveyed a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, to President Chadli Bendjedid. Staff Major Jallud has also held a number of talks with Algerian party and state officials.

Bendjedid's Talks With Italy's Craxi Reported

PM271132 Rome AVANTI! in Italian 22 Oct 86 p 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Middle East: Solution to Deadlock"]

[Text] Italy, like Algeria, wants to create a new situation in the Mediterranean region and the Middle East, since peace seems more under threat every day and the prospects of tension in the region are becoming increasingly disturbing.

This is one of the results that emerged from the political conversations that Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi had yesterday [20 October] afternoon immediately after his arrival in Algeria, from this morning's private talks with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, and from enlarged meetings with government leaders. Craxi issued a political condemnation of the recent terrorist attacks in the Middle East, responsibility for the latest of which, at the Wailing Wall, was claimed by the PLO. The recourse to terrorism as a means of exerting pressure is a mistake, Craxi said, because it produces no military or political results and does not benefit its supporters. However, in his talks with the Algerians Craxi argued that the closed door policy can only exacerbate situations. Among the clearly "not encouraging" situations in the Mediterranean Craxi included Libya: "The Libyan Government seems to be doing its utmost to nurture the state of crisis and hazardousness."

In view of such a high level of conflict, unparalleled anywhere in the world, Italy and Algeria asserted the political importance of laying the foundations of an initiative — still being defined — that can be achieved through intensive bilateral cooperation (partly through exchanges of information, visits, and mediation) and that can be taken by each country within its own area of political and economic influence, to diminish instability and the terrorist threats. The initiative that has emerged from the past 2 days' talks between Craxi and Chadli will take shape in the weeks ahead with Algerian Foreign Minister Taleb Ibrahimi's visit to Italy.

President Chadli, who is also secretary general of the FLN (the National Liberation Front — Algeria's only party), briefed Craxi on his government's political initiatives in connection with the problems of the Middle East. Algeria favors the early holding of a special pan-Arab summit; aims at the unity of all Palestinian currents through mediation and contacts; continues to recognize the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate and genuine representative; proclaims their right to self-determination and to establish an independent state in Palestine; and calls for the holding of an international conference on the Middle East.

Greeting Chadli in his residence in the high part of the capital, Craxi said: "I have been promising myself this visit to Algeria for some time and from our joint analysis of the situations broached I derive confirmation that there are objective and concrete convergences on many issues between Algeria and Italy."

Bilateral relations also emerged enlarged and strengthened from Craxi's visit to Algeria — his second, following his first in 1984. The result, the prime minister said, is long-term strategic cooperation offering hitherto unexploited and considerable opportunities, while it emerged clearly that Algeria wishes to diversify its commercial requirements [diversificare i suoi fabbisogni commerciali] and Italy remains resolutely determined to support Algeria's development by extending agreements with Italian public and private industries. Specific aspects of the framework cooperation agreement signed in 1984 will be examined when Foreign Trade Minister Rino Formica visits Algeria at the end of this week.

Unresolved commercial and financial disputes between Algeria and Italy concern the currency in which contracts are paid; the offsets in terms of oil exports which Algeria generally demands against imports of Italian goods; the settlement of legal disputes, hitherto conducted exclusively by the Algerian judiciary; and the opening of lines of credit for Italian businesses.

The Italian delegation that accompanied the prime minister on his 2-day visit to Algeria was composed of the Foreign Ministry's director general of political affairs, Boris Biancheri Chiappori; the head of the prime minister's political secretariat, Gennaro Acquaviva; diplomatic adviser Antonio Baldini; and Italy's ambassador to Algeria, Michelangelo Jacobucci.

LIBYA

Reportage on Break of Syrian-UK Relations

Tripoli Reports Severance of Relations

LD242111 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Syria declared the severance of its diplomatic relations with the stationary U.S. aircraft carrier, Britain, and closed its airspace and ports to British aircraft and ships. All those who work at the British Embassy and cultural center were given 1 week to leave the Syrian Arab territories.

An official statement, issued today in Damascus, pointed out that these measures have been adopted in reply to the British decision to sever diplomatic relations with the Syrian Arab Republic.

The government of the U.S. aircraft carrier has adopted a racist resolution specifying the severance of relations with Syria within the framework of the hostile policies adopted by America and its aircraft-carrier against the Arab nation.

This resolution shows anew the malicious racist attitude that governs British policy towards the Arabs and that has been hysterically consecrated since the child-murderer, Thatcher, came to power.

This incident stresses again the necessity of a serious and firm action to unite the Arab nation, which is treated by its enemies as a single nation, while the Arabs deal with these enemies as separated midget mini-states.

Withdrawal of U.S. Ambassador Noted

LD250925 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Washington, 25 Oct (JANA) — A spokesman of the Black House announced yesterday that the U.S. Administration has decided to recall its ambassador to Syria. The spokesman, who did not however set a date for the ambassador's withdrawal, added that the decision was taken by child killer Reagan.

The U.S. decision has exposed the dimensions of the plot being hatched by imperialist circles against the Arab nation and their close cooperation against all progressive regimes in the region.

The U.S. aircraft-carrier, Britian, decided yesterday to sever its diplomatic relations with Syria. The latter responded and in its turn has broken its relations with the carrier.

Boycott of UK, U.S. Urged

LD251659 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1610 GMT 25 Oct 86

[tExt] Tripoli, 25 Oct (JANA) — JANA has learned that ad hoc authorities in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah have decided to boycott British aviation and to close Arab Libyan airspace to the aviation of the U.S. aircraft carrier, Britain.

An authorized source today urged all Arab countries and Iran to boycott the U.S. aircraft carrier, Britain, and the United States, and to put these two states on the black list as enemies of Arabism and Islam.

Foreign Liasion Bureau on Break

LD252109 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2005 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] The People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau has issued a statement today on the British Government's decision to sever diplomatic relations with sisterly Syria which said: The British Government's decision to sever diplomatic relations with sisterly Syria, which is supported by the U.S. Administration and Canada, represents a racist anti-Semite hostility and indicates a hateful crusade against the Arab nation.

The committee confirmed that this British-U.S. hostile attitude toward Syria represents an extension to the official terrorism of (?London) which was practiced by Britain and the United States against the Jamahiriyah because of its anti-imperialist stands, and because of its support for the cause of the Palestinian people which was a victim of British colonialism, its intrigues and conspiracies which led to the implanting of the Zionist entity in the Arab homeland. It added that the imperialist attack to which Syria is exposed is now entering a new stage with the British Government's decision to sever its relations with sisterly Syria with fictitious reasons and excuses, which have always been fabricated by colonialist circles as preparation for creating justifications for a new colonialist-Zionist attack against sister Syria and the Arab nation following the failure of the cliques of the hireling Muslim brothers in their sabotage operations against Syria.

The People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau went on to say in its statement that the British hostile attitudes to the Arab nation stem from [words indistinct] which serves the colonialist and Zionist objectives, orchestrated by the United States within the framework of the U.S.-Zionist strategic alliance. The People's Committee stressed that the disinformation campaign which the United States had waged against the Jamahiriyah, which the British government took part in and spread, is now being directed against sisterly Syria with the aim of preparing a Zionist-American premeditated and direct aggression against it in an atmosphere and circumstances similar to those which preceded the U.S.-British aggression against the Jamahiriyah last April. It added that the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah from the premise of its pan-Arab obligation declares its complete solidarity and support for sisterly Syria in the face of the colonialist and Zionist intrigues, conspiracies and plans and calls on the Arab countries to take measures capable of backing and supporting Syria, including the severing of diplomatic and economic relations, and the withdrawal of Arab money from British and American banks.

The People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau concluded its statement by confirming that the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah while drawing the attention of the Arab nation to the seriousness of this imperialist plan which is aimed at attacking each Arab country on its own [words indistinct] the Arab nation in order to annihilate it, calls for the adoption of a firm and unified campaign, which is orchestrated by the U.S. Administration and Britain.

Arab, EC Envoys Summoned

LD271441 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Excerpts] At noon today the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison summoned the Arab ambassadors to the Great Jamahiriyah in connection with the hostile measures taken by the UK Government, the stationary U.S. aircraft carrier, and the U.S. Administration against sister Syria. The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison stressed the necessity of adopting a united Arab stand on Syria's side so as to prevent Britain and the United States from dealing with each Arab country individually. The committee asked the Arab ambassadors to communicate to their countries the necessity of adopting specific stands rejecting such measures and of taking practical economic measures against the government of the stationary U.S. aircraft carrier and the administration of the mad dog of Israel, including the banning of British aviation from using Arab airspace.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison stressed the necessity of convening a meeting of the Arab representatives to the Arab League to take a united Arab stand against the provocative measures being carried out by the government of the stationary U.S. aircraft carrier and the administration of Israel's mad dog against the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison at noon today summoned the heads of the missions of the

EC member-states to the Great Jamahiriyah. They were informed that the U.S. Administration and its aircraft carrier Britain are trying to embroil the EC and compel it to take stands hostile to the Arab nation — a matter that will not go unanswered by a united and deterrent Arab stand. The committee informed the ambassadors that the EC member-states have been duped by the administration of Israel's mad dog, which adopted a policy of lies and disinformation against the Great Jamahiriyah, and that the EC member-states were supposed to draw back from the measures they had previously adopted against Libya, let alone meet today to take hostile measures against Syria. The committee expressed its astonishment at the manner in which such European meetings are being convened merely upon an accusation by a European government against an Arab country — a matter which indicates the existence of a Zionist-U.S. hostile plan that Europe has been dragged into and that is aimed at the entire Arab nation.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison warned against the consequences of such measures and drew attention to the fact that the hostile policy serves neither Arab-European cooperation and Arab-European relations, nor the issue of peace and security in the region.

EC Envoy Summoned, Warned

LD271259 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison summoned the Belgian charge d'affaires, in his capacity as the EC representative to the Great Jamahiriyah, to inform him that the stationary U.S. aircraft-carrier, Britain, is trying to embroil the EC and drive it into taking measures against Syria as part of a campaign of deception and trickery pursued by the U.S. Administration and the U.S. aircraft carrier, Britain.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison warned against falling for this U.S.-Zionist plan, which harms Arab-European relations and threatens peace and security in the region.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison pointed out that the EEC is expected to retract from the hostile measures it had previously adopted against Libya now that the deception and lies exercised by the U.S. administration has become evident, and will not persist in adopting further hostile measures against an Arab country.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison affirmed to the EC envoy that the persistence of EC subservience to the policy of the U.S. Administration will lead to a unified Arab reply which will end the constant hostility to the Arab nation.

Reportage on Meetings With Iranian Delegation

Iran's Velayati Meets With Mansur

NC240711 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report from Tripoli, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has held two separate meetings with Mr Kamil Hasan Mansur, secretary of the General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, during which both regional issues and bilateral relations were discussed. The meetings were also attended by Iran's ambassador in Tripoli, the political secretary general of the Iranian Foreign Ministry's Arab and African countries department, and Mr 'Umran (Hamuda), deputy secretary of the Libyan Bureau for Foreign Liaison. The participants exchanged views on means of coordinating the positions taken by Iran and Libya in confronting imperialist and reactionary provocations. The upcoming ICO summit conference and the Arab reactionaries' campaign to include the Camp David Egyptian regime in the next session, to be held in Kuwait, were also examined. In addition, Mr Velayati and Mr Mansur reviewed the latest developments in the imposed war, emphasizing the need for greater coordination in the areas of propaganda and political action to combat the political instigations carried out by Saddam and his supporters.

Velayati Interviewed on Talks

LD251735 Tehran IRNA in English 1721 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Tripoli, Oct. 25, IRNA — Visiting Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rafiqdust left here Friday after talks with high ranking Libyan officials.

The foreign affairs and IRGC ministers also participated in a joint politico-military meeting between Iran and Libya here.

In an interview with reporters at the Tripoli Airport before their departure, Velayati described talks between the Iranian delegation and Libyan officials as "very fruitful".

The minister said that the latest developments in the Iraqi-imposed war and issues relevant to Palestine and Lebanon were among topics discussed by the Iranian delegation and member of Libyan Revolution Command Council Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud.

Velayati also said that during his two rounds of talks with his Libyan counterpart Kamal Hasan Mansur he had discussed issues pertaining to the upcoming tripartite session between Iran, Syria and Libya as well as the need to further bring progressive Muslim states closer.

Libya's Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan Mansur saw off the Iranian officials at Tripoli's airport.

JANA Reports Departure

LD241152 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1141 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Oct (JANA) — Iranian Foreign Minister brother 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps brother Mohsen Rafiqdust, and the delegation accompanying them left Tripoli this morning after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

People's Congresses Send Cables to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD270204 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Excerpt] At the end of the meetings of their second ordinary session for this year, the masses of the Basic People's Congresses at the different parts of the Great Jamahiriyah sent cables to the brother leader of the revolution, the leader of triumph and defiance. In it, they stressed their everlasting commitment to the people's authority and the green thinking, the thinking of the Third International Theory, and to preaching it everywhere in the world until the victory of freedom is established everywhere and until the final liberation of the human race from all forms of tyranny and backwardness. [passage indistinct]

Hun Masses Demonstrate Against Enemies

LD241027 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0745 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Excerpt] Hun, 24 Oct (JANA) — The masses from the People's Basic Congresses in the town of Hun last night held a demonstration of anger and defiance against the enemies of the Libyan Arab people and U.S. CIA agents who have been used to carry out the aggressive schemes and plots of the child killer Reagan's administration. They stressed the need to administer just punishment to and liquidate the hireling agent group of God's enemies and to doubly retaliate against those who attempt to harm the revolutionary options of this great people. Whoever is used as a tool by imperialist circles to carry out their aggressive wishes and intrigues aimed at harming the great gains and triumphs achieved in the Great Jamahiriyah as a result of the Great al-Fatih Revolution will pay dearly.

The masses of the People Basic Congresses in the town of Hun affirmed their eternal cohesion with the Great al-Fatih Revolution and its leader and their continued readiness to execute the order of death against the internal and external enemies of the Libyan Arab people and thwart all terrorist plots by the enemies of freedom and progress. [passage omitted]

Students Recommend CIA Agents Be 'Punished'

LD241206 Tripoli JANA in English 1048 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Tripoli, Safar, 20 Al Tomor 24, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The Students' Congress — Department of Economics — Al-Fatih University held an emergency meeting yesterday afternoon stressing that the Libyan Arab people should severely punish the agents of the CIA — enemies of God and Great al-Fatih Revolution.

The above male and female students have stressed their adherence to the thoughts of the third universal theory. They emphasized their support to the leader of the revolution and that the holy Quran is the law the Libyan Arab people abides by, pointing out that fair and severe punishment has to be exercised against those who betray their revolution at the behest of their CIA (?terrorist masters).

These students pledged their word to the leader of the revolution that they continue making every endeavour to build our Great al Jamahiriyah to achieve self-sufficient producing society.

MOROCCO

Bilateral Cooperation Discussed With Romania

LD241818 Rabat MAP in English 1211 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Rabat, Oct 24 (MAP) — Morocco and Romania decided to enhance their bilateral cooperation in a wide range of areas including dams and ports construction, vocational training, and the setting up of joint ventures.

This was decided during the separate meetings held here Thursday between the visiting Romanian Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Constantin Oancea and several Moroccan officials including Prime Minister Azeddine Laraki, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali.

M. Constantin who also met the Minister of Trade and Industry Tahar Masmoudi and the Minister of Equipment, Staff and Vocational Training Mohamed Kabbaj told the press after his talks with Filali that his visit was aimed at carrying on consultations with Moroccan officials with a view to bolstering cooperation both on the economic and political levels.

Talks equally focused on international issues of mutual concern, the disarmament process to safeguard world peaces and security, and the Middle East conflict, the Romanian vice-minister said.

SUDAN

SUNA Reports Release of Eritrean Leaders

JN251032 Khartoum SUNA in English 1005 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Khartoum, Oct. 25 SUNDA — The Sudanese authorities have released yesterday all the Eritrean political factions leaders who were detained in Kassala town — Eastern Region — following the blast that took place there recently, the daily *Al-Siyasah* issued here today reported.

An Eritrean politician was killed, one injured and two others escaped unhurt when a car loaded with explosives was blown up in Kassala current Oct. 17.

Investigations for getting further information about the dimension of the incident were completed, the daily quoted a police source here as reaffirming without giving further details on the nature of the incident.

QNA: Further on Release

JN241132 Doha QNA in Arabic 0855 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Oct (QNA) — Muhammad 'Uthman Abu Bakr, representative of the Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF] — Unified organization in the Gulf region, whose headquarters is in Abu Dhabi, has said Sudanese authorities yesterday released ELF leader Osman Saleh Sabbe and a number of Eritrean leaders and cadres who were arrested in Sudan recently following the Kassala incident.

In a statement to a QNA correspondent in Abu Dhabi this morning, 'Uthman Abu Bakr explained that the release of the Eritrean leaders took place in accordance with a decision by the Sudanese Council of Ministers, which ordered the release of all those who were arrested and who were not convicted of the explosion in Kassala. He said he made a telephone call to Osman Saleh Sabbe last night following his release. He welcomed in ELF's name the decision made by Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and pointed out that the Sudanese Government's stand was a correct one and expressed the will of the Sudanese and Eritrean peoples, who care about the two peoples' distinguished relations and do not want it harmed by any intrigue.

He added the Eritrean revolution was not affected by what recently took place, considering it a passing issue which some tried to exploit, but to no avail, especially since the Sudanese authorities asserted to the Eritrean leaders following their release that they will continue their support, cooperation, and backing for the Eritrean people and their militant revolution for the sake of independence.

AFP Reports Al-Mahdi Meeting With Opposition

NC261834 Paris AFP in English 1756 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 26 (AFP) — Sudanese Prime Minsiter Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi had a rare meeting Sunday with the Secretary General of the Islamic National Front (INF) Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi amid rumours that he was considering bringing the INF into his cabinet.

The leader of the INF, the main opposition group, said the meeting touched on paramount national issues including unity, security, the civil strife in the south, development, the economic crisis and new legislation to be enacted.

Mr. Al-Turabi said the prime minister briefed him on his recent visit to the United Nations, United States, Britain, Turkey and France, and both agreed on the need to maintain a consensus on national issues.

The meeting is seen as a sign of rapprochement between the prime minister's Umma Party and the INF, which takes a radical Moslem line, including support for the Islamic legal code.

Reports here have recently spoken about a possible enlarging of the current cabinet to include members of the INF. Senior Umma officials have repeatedly denied the reports.

Official Comments on Mengistu-Al-Qadhdhafi Talks

EA242312 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Oct (SUNA) — Mubarak 'Abdallah al-Fadil, minister for industry and secretary for foreign affairs in the National Ummah party, one of the two parties in the ruling coalition in the country, announced that Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam had agreed after a prolonged discussion with Libyan leader Muhammar al-Qadhdhafi, on the principle of reaching a settlement with Sudan.

The minister, in an interview with the independent *Al-Usbu* newspaper, published today, explained that Al-Qadhdhafi expects to hold another meeting with the Ethiopian president to discuss the details of the settlement, pointing out that Sudan's conditions for this settlement include a peace pact involving the states of the Horn of Africa, founded on the principles of good-neighborliness and noninterference in the internal affairs of each state, in addition to economic cooperation between them not based on any [word indistinct] polarization or ideologies.

Al-Fadil added that Sudan is ready to participate in solving Ethiopia's problems peacefully, if it so wished, if it stopped backing the rebel movement in southern Sudan and if the fighting in the south stopped.

Al-Fadil, who recently visited Libya at the request of Colonel Muhammar al-Qadhdhafi to find out the results of the contacts he made with the Ethopian president for bringing Sudan and Ethiopa closer together and solving the problem of the rebels in southern Sudan, denied that Sudan had entered into any bargains with Libya to solve the problem of the south. He said that Sudan, with its new attitudes and policies, did not allow itself or any party to enter into such bargains. He added that the relationship with Libya was based on the principles and convictions of both parties, and that the Libyan leader had offered to mediate between Ethiopia and Sudan with the consent of both sides.

Libyan, Other Mediation in South Welcomed

JN261047 Khartoum SUNA in English 1013 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Khartoum, Oct. 26 (SUNA) — Libyan intermediation in Southern Sudan question has been initiated by the Libyan Government, though Sudan did not ask for that, Dr. 'Umar Nur al-Da'im secretary-general of the National Al-Ummah Party said.

He refuted what has been reported over Sudan's rejection to an Egyptian mediation in southern question and stated that Cairo did not put forward such initiatives.

Sudan is ready to accept all kinds of intermediation in south Sudan question to be initiated by friendly countries.

Libya To Build 50 Technical Schools

JN251051 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Khartoum, Oct. 25. SUNA — Sudan has signed an agreement with Libya according to which the Latter will establish 50 technical schools in the western part of the country, the minister of education told the daily *Al-Siyash* issued here today.

Bakri Amad 'Adil pointed out that his ministry is currently conducting a dialogue with some Arab countries and international institutions for polarizing aid in the sphere of technical education in the country.

The daily quoted 'Adil as saying his ministry will implement a plan [which] aims at developing the technical education to cope with the country's needs.

WESTERN SAHARA

Paris: Polisario Hands Over Downed French Pilots

LD241442 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] The Polisario Front this morning handed over to officials of the French Consulate in Algiers the two pilots whose aircraft made an emergency landing last week in the Western Sahara. Their aircraft, a Cessna, had been hit by two machine gun rounds that damaged the propeller and the fuselage, said pilots Serge Ourman and Pierre Daucourt during a brief news conference. The two men are in perfect health. They said that the Saharan fighters gave them a friendly welcome and that they would return to France this afternoon.

SDAR Government Announces 24-hour Cease-fire

LD252006 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] A statement issued by the Polisario Front today announced that the SDAR Government has decided to observe unilateral cease-fire for 24 hours as from 26 October at midnight in response to the appeal addressed by Pope John Paul II on 4 October, in which he called for [words indistinct] for the sake of peace.

The statement added that the Saharan Government is ready to receive observers and witnesses during the period of the cease-fire.

The statement pointed out that this tangible contribution to international peace underlines the Saharan peaceful initiatives and good will towards the other party, and it also indicates the sincere Saharan wish to establish a just peace in the Western Sahara.

In conclusion, the statement pointed out that the Saharan government hopes that this initiative will serve the cause of peace and will contribute to the consecration of the principles of freedom and justice in the world. [Algiers Domestic Service in French at 1830 GMT on 25 October carries the following information on the date of the ceasefire: "Western Sahara — the Government of the Saharan Republic has decided to observe unilaterally a cease-fire for 24 hours from tomorrow in response to the appeal made by Pope John Paul II."]

DJIBOUTI

President Receives PDRY Minister 26 Oct

EA271222 Djibouti Domestic Service in Somali 1645 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] President Hassan Gouled Aptidon received PDRY Minister of Transport Salih 'Abdallah Mathanna at the Presidency this morning. The PDRY minister arrived in Djibouti yesterday. He delivered to the president of Djibouti a message from PDRY President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas. The meeting was also attended by Musa Buraleh Robleh, Djibouti minister of transport, commerce and tourism, and PDRY Ambassador to Djibouti Alawi al-Saqqaf. No details of the contents of the message were disclosed, but it will be recalled that the PDRY minister's visit comes at a time when air and sea communications between the two countries were suspended on 17 August of this year. The decision was made by the Djibouti leadership following the forcing down in South Yemen of a Djibouti aircraft.

ETHIOPIA

Reportage on Talks With PDRY Delegation

Talks Begin 24 Oct

EA241800 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Official talks between a delegation of Democratic Yemen, headed by Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP Central Committee secretary general, and the Ethiopian side, headed by Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, WPE Central Committee secretary general, PMAC chairman and commander in chief of the Ethiopian Revolutionary Armed Forces, begin today in socialist Ethiopia.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid and Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam yesterday evening held a 1½-hour closed meeting. It was then followed by a dinner given by Comrade Mengistu is honor of the comrade secretary general and the delegation accompanying him.

The brother secretary general arrived at Addis Ababa Airport yesterday afternoon. He was received at the airport by Comrade Mengistu Ile Mariam and senior Ethiopian officials.

In a press statement on arrival in the Ethiopian capital, the brother secretary general said: We are glad to visit the Socialist Republic of Ethiopia in response to an invitation from Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, the WPE Central Committee secretary general. Our discussions will deal with the militant relations between our two parties and countries and ways of developing them on the basis of the cooperation agreement signed between the two friendly parties. Our discussions with Comrade Mengistu will, in particular, review the situation in the area and we will study ways of developing and expanding cooperation between our two parties so as to achieve more and continued cooperation between us as an expression of the firm ties of friendship between our two peoples which are strengthened by blood, as well as studying the current international situation. We will exchange opinions on the importance of joint action to confront all the challenges facing our area and to guarantee security and staiblity in it.

We in the Yemeni Socialist Party are eager to develop our party, governmental and mass [as heard] relations with the WPE and the people of the socialist Republic of Ethiopia. Our party and people greatly appreciate the WPE and the friendly Ethiopian people. I hope this visit of ours will contribute to developing the existing relations between our two friendly parties and peoples.

Aden Cites Al-Bid, Mengistu

EA242214 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Excerpts] Party discussions between a YSP delegation led by Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the GSP Central Committee, and a WPE delegation led by Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE Central Committee, chairman of the PMAC and commander in chief of the Ethiopian Revolutionary Armed Forces, began in Addis Ababa this morning. [passage omitted]

Speaking about the activities of imperialist and reactionary forces, Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid said these activities would not distinguish between Ethiopia and Democratic Yemen and they require from us more action and joint coordination. He expressed the readiness of Democratic Yemen's party and government to activate and coordinate relations between the two sides in all spheres.

For his part, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam expressed appreciation for the efforts by the YSP to rebuild what was devasted by the 13 January incidents at all levels. He expressed hope that all these efforts would be crowned with complete success. During his speech about relations between the two friendly countries, Comrade Mengistu said relations between Ethiopia and Democratic Yemen are firm in all spheres and are governed by joint struggle. They are still alive and they will continue in this way. Although certain events occurred, this nevertheless will not change the principles.

Comrade Mengistu discussed the natural disasters which caused the famine and how the WPE confronted them together with the government and Ethiopian people. He said: Although the enemies tried to benefit from these disasters to harm the Ethiopian revolution, nevertheless, a positive aspect of them is that the people, party, and government stood together to overcome the effects of the disaster [as heard].

Report on Ministerial Talks

EA251954 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Talks were held in Addis Ababa today between member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee Brother Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin and member of the

Central Committee and Secretary of the WPE Central Committee Comrade Ashagre Yigletu.

The talks were held in the Central Committee building and dealt with relations between the two friendly parties and ways of strengthening and developing them in line with the joint strategic aims of the treaty of friendship and cooperation. Following up the implementation of the agreements between the two parties was also discussed and an agreement was reached on drawing up a program for implementing the agreements between the two parties and to exchange experiences on the parties and mass and vocational organizations.

During the talks, Comrade Ashagre Yigletu affirmed that relations with the YSP are special and distinct and above all they are relations which reflect a unified aim. He expressed his admiration for the steps taken to overcome the effects of the 13 January incidents and to normalize conditions in the record period of less than months.

Meanwhile, a meeting was held this afternoon at the Ethiopian Ministry of Energy and Mines in Addis Ababa, between member of the Central Committee, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Energy and Minerals Brother Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun and the Ethiopian cormade, a member of the Central Committee and Minister of Energy and Mines. During the meeting various aspects of cooperation in the energy and mineral sector through the exchange of information, visits and training courses were discussed.

The two sides also agreed on the question of trade cooperation between the two ministries and exchanging oil-based commodities such as asphalt and butane gas, with agricultural commodities and animals within the framework of the economic cooperation between the two friendly countries. Precise details and specific qualities are to be defined by responsible authorities in the two countries. The two sides agreed to draw up a protocol on what was discussed at the meeting.

Minister of Culture and Information, Brother Dr Muhammad Ahmad Jirghum, also met the Ethiopian Ministers of Information and Culture. He reviewed bilateral relations and trends in developing cooperation between the two countries in the fields of information and culture. Agreement was reached on reviving and renewing a protocol of cooperation in these fields and to increase contacts in various information and cultural fields.

Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Brother Dr Ahmad 'ali Muqbil met with the Ethiopian Minister of State Farms. They discussed relations in agriculture and ways of developing them and of reinforcing the activities of the joint Ethiopian-Yemeni agricultural company.

A meeting was also held between Brother Muhammad 'Abdallah 'Uthman, minister of industry, trade and supplies and the Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Trade. Talks were held on economic, trade and cultural relations and on the preparations for holding the sixth round of the joint Ethiopian-Yemeni Economic Committee scheduled to be held in Aden. The meeting was attended by Brothers Dr Muhammad Ahmad Jirghum, minister of culture and information, and Dr Ahmad 'Ali Muqbil, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform.

Talks Held Between Military Officials

EA270214 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Brother Colonel Muhammad Haytham Qasim, member of the YSP Central Committee and deputy chief of general staff this morning in Addis Ababa met Comrade General Haile Giorgis, member of the Central Committee and chief of general staff of the Ethiopian Revolutionary Army, with whom he discussed relations between the two friendly armies and ways of strengthening and developing them. The two agreed to continue the implementation of the agreements and protocols already concluded. They also agreed to exchange visits between commanders of the forces and different corps, including meetings between the commanders of the general staffs of the two friendly armies.

KENYA

President Receives Outgoing U.S. Ambassador

EA241827 Nairobi KNA in English 1045 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Nairobi: President Daniel Arap Moi today at State House, Nairobi, bade farewell to the outgoing American Ambassador to Kenya, Mr Gerald Thomas. President Moi praised the ambassador for having worked hard to cement and strengthen relations between Kenya and the USA during the envoy's tenure of office in Kenya. He said the good relations that have existed between Kenya, and the USA have helped bring about closer cooperation between the two countries.

President Moi said that the government was also grateful for the development assistance that Kenya has continued to receive from American government and other American donors and aid agencies. He said that Kenya was now laying much emphasis on the promotion of rural development by giving assistance to rural small scale businessmen and women groups. The president asked the U.S. Government and other organisations to assist Kenya in this direction by giving loans to Kenya in order to broaden and strengthen the economic base of the rural areas, where 90 per cent of the population lives.

President Moi told the American envoy to pass his warm greetings to President Ronald Reagan and the American people. He also wished the envoy a good and prosperous life in his future career.

Mr Thomas was accompanied to State House by an assistant minister for foreign affairs, Mr Ochola Makanyengo, and the ministry's permanent secretary, Mr Bethwel Kiplagat.

TANZANIA

Nyerere Returns from Machel Condolence Visit

EA242313 Dar Es Salaam External Service in English
1800 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Dar es Salaam — The party chairman, Mwalimu Nyerere, has returned to Dar es Salaam after delivering condolences of CCM to the government and people of Mozambique on the death of President Samora Machel. Mwalimu was accompanied by his wife and several high-ranking party officials. They included head of the department of defense and security and foreign affairs of the party, Ndugu Salim Ahmed Salim, and head of the ideology, political, education and training department on the National Executive Committee, Ndugu Kingunge Ngombale Mwiru.

CAR

Bokassa in Solitary Confinement, Awaiting Trial
AB251501 Paris AFP in English 1452 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Bangui, Oct 25 (AFP) — The former Central African Emperor, Jean-Bedel Bokassa, is being held in solitary confinement in a secret jail "for his own safety," a government source said here Saturday.

A close aide to President Andre Kolingba said Bokassa, who returned here suddenly Thursday from his exile in France, would be retried at a date which had not yet been decided.

The ex-emperor is already under sentence of death imposed in his absence after his overthrow in 1979 for murder, cannibalism, and embezzlement of state funds.

The president's aide said Bokassa was speaking to no one and appeared "in a state of collapse." His food, the same as served to other prisoners, was tasted beforehand to make (?sure) it was not poisoned, he added.

The government was (?considering) "with a great deal of care" how best to handle the situation, the aide said.

His place of confinement was being kept secret "for fear one of his victims makes an attempt on his life," but is apparently not Ngaragba Prison here, where he is alleged to have beaten schoolchildren to death in an incident which hastened his downfall.

The Bangui daily newspaper, *Ele Sango*, gave prominence to Bokassa's return for the first time Saturday. An editorial by Mahtin Yando, President Kolingba's chief of staff, said he had come back to "block the democratisation process," a reference to elections being organized.

Financial, Technical Agreements Signed With France
AB241056 Bangui Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 23 Oct 86

[All figures as heard]

[Excerpts] Three financial agreements and a technical assistance protocol covering a total amount of 130 million CFA francs was signed this morning at the Ministry of Planning and International Economic Cooperation between the CAR Government and that of France [passage omitted]

The first agreement, which covers a total amount of 100 million CFA francs, concerns monies granted by France to national experts who prepared a (?fishing) rehabilitation program. The second agreement of 35 million CFA francs is to finance evaluation studies on some gold mines. [passage omitted] The third agreement of 85 million CFA francs is meant to fight major endemic diseases. The amount will be used to buy vaccines for diseases such as yellow fever, tetanus, whooping cough, river blindness, malaria, and sexually transmissble diseases. [passage omitted]

CHAD

Contact With Goukouni Oueddei Reported
D241733 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Here is a piece of news to be taken with a pinch of salt regarding Chad: According to circles close to the Chadian Embassy in Paris, contacts have reportedly been established between Goukouni Oueddei and the Ndjamena government. According to these sources, not confirmed by the Chadian Embassy in Paris, serious talks reportedly took place between envoys of the Chadian Government and a delegation of Goukouni Oueddei's fighters. The meeting reportedly took place in eastern Chad.

I also add that an envoy of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said in Brazzaville that the Chad conflict is an African issue that is to be settled by the Chadians themselves.

UNIR Rally Supports People in 'Occupied Zone'
AB262217 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Excerpts] The Central Committee of the National Union for Independence and Revolution [UNIR] this morning organized in Ndjamena a march of support for our brothers in the occupied zone. The UNIR Central Committee organized this support march to test the militancy and nationalism of the Chadian people. This test comes at a time when our brothers in the occupied zone are being massacred; at a time when the regular army of Al-Qadhdhafi and his mercenaries is indulging in the systematic destruction of our human, material, and economic resources. [passage omitted]

Today's event was so important that members of the UNIR Central Committee, members of government, members of the National Consultative Committee and affiliated organs of the UNIR, as well as the regional committees from the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti [BET], Chari-Baguirmi, and the capital organized for the first time a joint march of support for our brothers in the occupied zone, support for the Chadian National Armed Forces and the supreme cammander of the Army, His Excellency El Hadj Hissein Habre, head of state, president of the Republic, and founding chairman of the UNIR. [passage omitted]

At 0845 the demonstrators arrived at the Independence Square, and a few minutes later, the founding chairman of the UNIR, president of the Republic, and head of state, Comrade El Hadj Hissein Habre, arrived at the square. He was welcomed by the UNIR executive secretary and his deputy, Comrades Gouara Lassou and Youssouf Sidi Sougoumi. [passage omitted]

After the UNIR activists' slogans, Comrade Gouara Lassou, executive secretary of the UNIR Central Committee read the motion of solidarity with our brothers of the occupied zone:

[Begin Gouara recording] Solidarity motion for the martyred people in the occupied zone: Considering the bloody war imposed on Chad by the fascist and expansionist Tripoli regime; considering the military occupation of half of the Chadian territory by the Libyan Army and the expansionist and annexationist aims of Al-Qadhdhafi's regime on Chad; considering the systematic genocide perpetrated against the Chadian people in general and the defenseless civilian people in the zone occupied by the Libyan Army in particular; considering the determination, heroism, and the pride of the mobilized Chadian people; considering the obstinate resistence of the martyred people in the occupied zone against the Libyan war machinery; considering the nationalism and the historic awakening and unity of Chadians within the UNIR under the leadership of Comrade Hissein Habre for the total liberation of Chad; we militants of UNIR, vehemently condemn the barbaric acts perpetrated by the Al-Qadhdhafi fascist and expansionist regime against Chad in general and against the people in the occupied zone in particular; and affirm our unflinching support for the martyred people in the occupied zone and exhort them to continue the resistance against Libyan occupation in all forms; demand the unconditional withdrawal of the Libyan invasion forces from Chadian territory [applause]; call on the Chadian people to remain united, mobilized, vigilant, and prepared to take up the challenge regardless of the price; invite international organizations, the United Nations, and the OAU to contribute concretely toward the immediate cessation of Chad's occupation by the Libyan invading forces; call on all international humanitarian organizations to help denounce and aid victims of this genocide; call on all justice- and freedom-loving countries to support, by all means, the efforts of the Chadian people and their government in order to recover their inalienable and unlimited rights; call on France to become more involved on the side of the Chadian people in order to free the part of their country occupied by the Libyan Army. [applause] [end recording] [passage omitted]

CONGO

Zaire's Mobutu Pays Short Visit 23 Oct

AB241759 Paris AFP in French 1713 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Text] Brazzaville, 23 Oct (AFP) — Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko arrived in Brazzaville this afternoon for a visit of a few hours during which he was scheduled to hold talks with Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, current OAU chairman.

President Mobutu might inform the OAU chairman of his decision to put an end to his relations with the South African regime — especially in the field of trade — in the wake of the Kasaba (Zambia) meeting with the leaders of the Frontline States, diplomatic observers in Brazzaville believed.

It was after that meeting attended by the Angolan, Mozambican, Zambian, and Zairian presidents on 19 October that President Samora Machel of Mozambique was killed in a plane crash on his way back to Maputo.

On his arrival at the Maya-Maya Airport in Brazzaville, the Zairian head of state, who was accompanied by a large bodyguard unit, went directly to the presidential palace for the first round of talks with his Congolese counterpart.

ZAIRE

Mobutu to Meet With African Leaders 'Next Month'

AB241140 Paris AFP in English 0826 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Kinshasa, Oct 24 (AFP) — President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire has announced he is due to meet again next month with the leaders of Zambia, Angola and Mozambique for further discussions on the southern African situation.

Marshal Mobutu, speaking to reporters after a visit Thursday to Brazzaville to meet President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, said that a meeting of the four states' leaders last Sunday in Zambia had decided to hold a second summit November 22 in Gbadolite in northeastern Zaire.

Following Sunday's summit, which centered on efforts to develop alternative trade routes in southern Africa that do not pass through South Africa, Mozambican leader Samora Machel was killed when the plane carrying him home crashed in South Africa.

Marshal Mobutu said he did not know if Mr Machel's death would lead to a postponement of the November meeting.

Zaire's neighbors have expressed concern over reports that Kinshasa was allowing U.S. aid for rebels in Angola to transit via its territory. The rebels have closed a key rail link from Zaire, through Zambia, to the Angolan port of Lobito, which the region's black-ruled states hope to use as an alternative to South African railways and ports.

Zaire's key copper exports and much of its imports currently pass through Zambia and Zimbabwe, giving those states significant bargaining power in trying to persuade Zaire to help efforts to reopen the Angolan rail line.

GHANA

TIMES Accuses BBC of Lies About Machel's Death

AB250957 Accra Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 25 Oct 86

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the heading "The Old Game," the *Ghanaian Times* says what is expected has started; that is, some sections of the world mass media, which serve the purposes of imperialism, have begun the game of speculation to cover the true cause of Samora Machel's death. The paper takes to task the BBC which it says gave a childish theory of a technical fault with the ridiculous speculation that the pilot of Samora's plane might have been misled by lights reflected from railway lines to mistake them for a runway, and therefore landed there.

It points out that this theory by the BBC cannot fool anyone since the pilot of the plane had said earlier that the plane was shot. The paper therefore described the BBC theory as a disgraceful lie to tell over such a grave issue, for the ploy is obviously meant to prepare the public to accept it if the conspirators in Samora's murder should later discredit the pilot's testimony as unreliable. It says imperialist forces which support the apartheid regime are not going to find it easy to divert attention from their complicity in the murder of Samora.

Machel Death Linked With Washington, CIA

AB261158 Accra Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 26 Oct 86

[From the press review]

[Text] The *Echo* blames Samora Machel's death on imperialism. It says Samora's murderers are definitely not in Pretoria, but from Washington, where acts of gangsterism perfected into a state of terrorism actually emanates. The paper finds it difficult to accuse Botha as a murderer without naming Ronald Reagan as the number one accomplice. To the *Echo*, the CIA has no guts, but it is known to be a terrorist organization which at times employs the services of like organizations to work for it. It advises African leaders to be more cautious in their movements, since the murderers are at their doorsteps. Adds the *Echo*, Samora is gone and Africa needs not offer more matyrs.

IVORY COAST

Ruling Party Calls for Tel Aviv Embassy

AB261322 Abidjan Domestic Service in French
1245 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Communique issued by the National Council of PDCI-RDA after its meeting in Yamoussoukro on 26 October 1986 on the Ivory Coast's relations with Israel and with the Arab world]

[Text] As announced on 21 October 1986 in a statement by the Government, the National Council of the PDCI-RDA held a meeting in Yamoussoukro after the deliberations of the international colloquium on the history of the African Democratic Rally under the chairmanship of His Excellency Felix Houphouet-Boigny, president of the republic and president of the party.

After hearing the PDCI president's briefing on international relations, especially on the state of relations between the Ivory Coast and Israel on the one hand, and between the Ivory Coast and the Arab world on the other, the National Council deliberated on this and expressed satisfaction with the fact that, in compliance with the recommendations of the latest PDCI-RDA Congress, the government has established diplomatic relations with a great number of states and resumed the Ivory Coast's relations with Israel and the Soviet Union, thus reaffirming our total sovereignty, our open-door policy toward the world, and our true neutrality.

Because the Ivory Coast is noted for its loyalty to its international commitments and for its commitment to peace and international law, the National Council, which bears in mind the Security Council resolution of 20 August 1980 calling on member-states of the United Nations maintaining diplomatic missions in Jerusalem to transfer them from the Holy City, asks the government to conform with this pertinent resolution and to transfer the embassy of Ivory Coast from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv.

The National Council takes this opportunity to once again reaffirm the Ivory Coast's commitment to the principles and objectives of the United Nations Organization, as well as to its noble ideals of peace, freedom, justice, and progress. The National Council also reaffirms the desire of Ivory Coast to cooperate with every country in the world on the basis of friendship, dignity, mutual respect, and noninterference in other states' internal affairs.

MALI

Foreign Minister on Expulsion by France

AB251956 Bamako Domestic Service in French
1500 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Interview with Foreign Minister Modibo Keita by French Television TF 1 reporter (Kaptal Grandnoble) in Bamako on the expulsion of 101 Malians from France — date not given; recorded]

[Text] [(Grandnoble)] Mr Minister, can you tell us the reaction of the Malian Government following the expulsions?

[Keita] You are certainly referring to the expulsion of the 101 Malians, which generated so much commotion throughout the world and in France in particular. In fact, last Saturday, we received 101 Malians expelled from the French territory under the pretext that they were there illegally. We received these expelled persons, and as you can see, they are now back home and have rejoined their families. The Malian Government recognizes the right for any state to legislate the stay of foreigners on its national territory. This applies to France as well as any other state. But the Malian Government did not fully comprehend the manner in which the expulsion took place. The unexpected nature of the measure, the large number of people it affected, and its sensational character — we must say — were regarded by Mali as humiliating [words indistinct].

[(Grandnoble)] You said that the Malian Government can take appropriate measures. What kind of measures can you take?

[Keita] It was with regret that we noted that the expulsions, and the manner in which they were carried out, are in flagrant contradiction with the relations of friendship and brotherliness between the Malian and French peoples. We hope that the French people and government will draw the appropriate lessons from what has just occurred in order not to dangerously jeopardize the quality of the relations existing between France and Mali. Mali is a sovereign country which reserves the right to react as it sees fit to measures taken against it.

[(Grandnoble)] Can you explain what kind of measures Mali could take in retaliation for the expulsions?

[Keita] The Malian people are [words indistinct] and which analyzes problems carefully. Without undue haste and as soon as all the facts of the matter are available to us, we will discretely inform our French partner of what Mali has the right to tell a partner such as France.

[(Grandnoble)] Will you do this before, during, or after the visit of Francois Mitterrand?

[Keita] This is irrelevant. It will depend on how quickly we gather the facts. In any case, this has nothing to do with the visit of President Mitterrand to our country. By the way, we can see the state of mind of the Malian people who will be receiving Francois Mitterrand, the president of a friendly country. So I'm sure you can understund that such expulsions are surprising to us.

[(Grandnoble)] [Question indistinct]

[Keita] We believe that France did not have the elementary courtesy to inform us prior to the expulsions. It would have been good if only they had informed us so that both sides could prepare these operations [words indisitnct] with human dignity.

[(Grandnoble)] Can you, for example, institute a visa requirement for French visitors to Mali?

[Keita] The Malian Government, in all sovereignty, took note of the French decision to institute visa requirements for the (?citizens) of Mali and several other countries, despite the agreements that have existed between us since 1977. We believed that at that time, the French Government had a problem to solve and in a spirit of friendliness, we did not retaliate because the measure was to take effect for 6 months only. We made a sovereign decision and not as a result of [words indistinct] we analyze and watch the development in the situation in order to determine what action Mali can take.

[(Grandnoble)] Can this expulsion issue have any effect on President Mitterrand's trip?

[Keita] I do not think so. Mali is a land of hospitality and it respects its commitments faithfully. It will honor all its commitments.

[(Grandnoble)] [Words indistinct] people often say that France is a land of asylum. Following this issue, do you think that France has lost this image to some extent?

[Keita] I leave it for the French themselves to assess this description. In any case [words indistinct] Mali is a land of hospitality.

[(Grandnoble)] [Question indistinct]

[Keita] Do not put words into my mouth. It is up to everyone to assess his own stand because what I am saying concerns only my country and I consider my country as a land of hospitality. It is up to France to say and prove that France is a land of hospitality.

[(Grandnoble)] One last question. The return of these Malians (?seems) surprising. I think that the Malian immigrant who is presently working [words indistinct]. Will all these factors have some effects on the economy?

[Keita] [words indistinct] We are a country which is at the crossroads of these migrations and Malians do not move to other countries to cause trouble. But, if you like, it is (?part) of civilization. [words indistinct] in our country and we consider them as citizens who have remained here. It is the duty of all Malians, once they return home, to seek ways and means to participate in the efforts of economic and social development of our country. [passage indistinct] and we welcome all our nationals, wherever they may come from. We are prepared to do everything we can to rehabilitate them.

NIGERIA

Imo State Closes School After Demonstration

AB252143 Lagos Domestic Service in English
2100 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] The Imo State Government has ordered the closure of Ahia Technical College, (Ahiaido) following a violent demonstration by the students. A security personnel was killed, while two other persons were seriously injured, and property damaged. According to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), a statement issued by the Ministry of Education in Owerri said the principal and staff of the institution have been instructed to report to the nearest police station.

ANGOLA

Savimbi Says French Officials Promised To Aid UNITA

AU261707 Paris AFP in English 1701 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Paris, Oct 26 (AFP) — Angolan guerrilla leader Jonas Savimbi said Sunday French officials had promised to aid his UNITA movement in talks he had with them here.

Mr. Savimbi, who arrived in France last Wednesday, refused to say he had met Prime Minister Jacques Chirac. "It is up to him to say if I did," he said.

Speaking on a French radio station, Mr. Savimbi said he had seen the speaker of the National Assembly, Jacques Chaban-Delmas, and some ministers. "They understand us and have promised to aid us."

Mr. Savimbi is also known to have seen Francois Leotard, minister for culture and communications, and Jacques Toubon, secretary-general of Mr. Chirac's party.

Invited to France by conservative members of the European Parliament, Mr. Savimbi saw UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) branded as a terrorist movement by that assembly by a narrow majority.

His visit also brought protests from African governments and the French left. The Soviet news agency TASS, in a dispatch Sunday, also criticised it strongly.

Mr. Savimbi also issued a veiled warning to the French oil company Elf-Aquitaine, which is active in Angola. "We have always appreciated its neutrality, but I feel that now it is becoming involved in politics," he said.

"There are many risks for businessmen playing politics in a region where the balance is precarious, or where there is war."

UNITA To Heed Pope's Appeal for Truce 27 Oct

AU261829 Paris AFP in English 1821 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Lisbon, Oct 26 (AFP) — The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), a U.S.-backed group fighting the Marxist government in Angola, said Sunday it would heed a call by Pope John Paul II to take part in a world wide day of peace on Monday.

In a statement released here, UNITA said it would unilaterally suspend all armed action in Angola, even if government forces did not honour the papal truce.

Minister Says Machel Crash Result of 'Crime'

MB250854 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] The head of the Angolan delegation to Mozambican President Samora Machel's funeral, Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Alexandre Rodrigues Quito, minister of interior and a member of the Political Bureau of the MPLA-Labor Party, said that he was convinced that the crash which killed President Machel was the result of a crime [words indistinct]. We are in a zone of conflict; the destabilization of the Frontline States is permanent because of the racist regime of South Africa. Alexandre Rodrigues Quito said that Angola will support its Mozambican brothers during the funeral ceremonies by providing transportation and other domestic goods.

BOTSWANA

Clarification of Circumstances of Machel Crash Urged

MB241320 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1315 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Gaborone, Oct 24 , SAPA — The death of Mozambican President Samora Machel "under rather mystifying circumstances, should not be simply brushed aside," the Botswana Department of Information and Broadcasting said in a Radio Botswana broadcast today.

"No stone should be left unturned in an effort to discover the real truth behind the plane's crash within the border of South Africa.

"The questions the people of Botswana are asking are: Why did the plane crash deep in South Africa when it was bound for Maputo? Why was communication with the plane reportedly lost 20 minutes before the crash? What was the real cause of the engine failure, if any? Why the strange coincidence of meeting his death in a country that obviously did not wish him well?"

"Until these or at least many of these questions are answered some people will remain suspicious and worried. Already there is tongue lashing in some quarters of the continent. We ourselves do not wish to pass hasty judgement whilst investigations are under way.

"But we believe that the suspicions in the minds of the people will only be removed by irrefutable facts or hard evidence. That is what the whole world is looking forward to," the department said.

The Botswana Government has declared three days of national mourning.

MALAWI

Zimbabwe Receives Protests Over Attacks on Offices

MB261740 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] The Malawi Government has formally and strongly protested to the Zimbabwe Government against the violent attacks on its high commission and airline offices in Harare last week.

According to the *Malawi News Agency* [MANA], the complaint was contained in two separate messages to Harare from the Malawi High Commission in Zimbabwe, and from Malawi External Affairs Ministry to the Zimbabwe High Commission in

Lilongwe.

According to MANA, the protest was in connection with the events of 21 October, in which a mob of more than 1,000 students rampaged the Malawi Chancellery in Harare, breaking windows of the building and overturning and damaging all vehicles parked in the compound.

In another incident on the same day, and taking place at the same time, an Air Malawi office was actually burned down. In the protest, the Malawi Government has expressed surprise at the way the Zimbabwean police handled the whole affair, especially that in both cases the Zimbabwe police are said to have simply watched the (?vandalism).

According to [words indistinct] sources here in Malawi, the demonstrators, however spontaneous the action was, are said to have had the blessing of the local ZANU-PF and civic authorities in Harare. The sources say this explains why the demonstrators were escorted by the police during the rampage. A television [as heard] was on hand to witness the storming of the Malawi Chancellery.

According to the sources, the Malawi Government has strongly appealed and requested the Government of Zimbabwe to maximize the security and police protection of Malawi nationals and property within its territory.

MOZAMBIQUE

Reports Speculate on Causes of Machel Plane Crash

NOTICIAS Sees RSA Link

MB241202 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Mozambique's main daily newspaper, *Noticias*, today published an editorial linking the Pretoria regime with the death of President Samora last Sunday.

The editorial asked if anyone still had doubts about who was responsible for the death of Samora Machel. It recalled that 2 weeks ago, Pretoria's Defense Minister Magnus Malan had directly threatened President Samora in person. The paper said even inside South Africa there were voices of condemnation such as from the United Democratic Front, which has blamed the regime for the death of Samora Machel.

The editorial added that every Mozambican has the same suspicion. The newspaper listed the sequence of events as the presidential plane left Zambia for Maputo. It said the plane entered Mozambique at Chicualacuala, in Gaza Province, and has asked for permission to land. The Maputo airport runway lights were switched on and appropriate instructions transmitted, but the plane did not land, the paper said. Shortly afterward, it crashed in South African territory.

How was this possible? How did the plane stray so far away? Where was it possibly made to change its route? The newspaper said it was possible to alter the route of the plane through technical interference. It also questioned the delay by South Africa in (?informing) the Mozambican authorities about the crash.

One of the survivors had informed police in Komatipoort 2 hours after the crash and South Africa had been monitoring the Mozambican plane's movement on their radar. *Noticias* asked why did it take South Africa a further 6 hours to inform the Mozambican Government.

Chissano Blames 'Armed Banditry'

MB251337 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1300 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Joaquim Chissano, a member of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau, has presented his condolences to the family of Joao Tomas Mavesse, a victim of last Sunday's tragic incident. Joao Tomas Mavesse was deputy director of the Foreign Affairs Ministry's Juridical and Consular Affairs Office.

On the occasion, the Mozambican foreign minister explained to the relatives of Joao Tomas Mavesse the circumstances which led to his death. Chissano noted that armed banditry and apartheid were the main culprits in the tragic incident. Joaquim Chissano appealed to the relatives of the deceased to remain united around the party and government ideals.

RSA Said Still Under Suspicion

MB260557 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0400 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Teodato Hunguana, the Mozambican minister of information, said in Maputo yesterday that the government does not in any way exclude the possibility that President Samora Machel's plane crash in South African territory was criminally provoked. Teodato Hunguana was responding to international speculation that the presidential plane crash was caused by human error and bad weather. The Mozambican Government does not in any way exclude the possibility of South African involvement in the death of our president, added the minister of information, Teodato Hunguana.

Dos Santos Blames 'Enemy'

MB271037 Dakar PANA in English 1023 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Maputo, 27 Oct (AIM/PANA) — The senior figure in Mozambican politics last night declared that we know the death of President Samora Machel was the work of the enemy.

Frelimo Political Bureau member, Marcelino dos Santos, who was deputy president of Frelimo during the liberation war, made this declaration when receiving the 40-strong delegation from the Soviet Union that arrived in Maputo yesterday to participate in President Machel's funeral.

Dos Santos, who is also the secretary of the People's Assembly, the Mozambican parliament, said that although the investigation into the causes of last Sunday's fatal air crash are not yet concluded, the manoeuvres of apartheid to destroy the People's Republic of Mozambique and to destroy in particular President Samora Machel, are well known.

The leader of the Soviet delegation, Geydar Aliyev, a member of the Soviet Communist Party's Politburo, and first deputy prime minister of the Soviet Union, told Marcelino dos Santos that he had come to Maputo to present the condolences of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and to share with the Mozambican people the sentiments of grief for the great friend of the Soviet people.

Aliyev stressed that Samora Machel made an important contribution to the elimination of injustice in several countries, and added that the sacred name of Samora Machel will live forever in the hearts of the people.

Machel Died at 'Hands of His Enemies'

MB261553 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1100 GMT 26 Oct 86

[*Domingo* editorial of 26 October: "A Death That Binds Us"]

[Text] The gap created by the death of President Samora Machel is indeed a matter of great concern, but greater still is the commitment now needed from all Mozambicans to support our struggle and the sacrifices of the man who leaves us behind. There is a duty which we must carry out, a responsibility which we must assume: to revenge the death of Samora and continue the struggle which he began. More is needed than sorrow and suspicion in the face of the death of a man who gave up a simple life to assume the grandeur of a whole nation and to embody regional and universal ideals.

What can the death of a man such as Machel represent? In Mozambique we have lost a guide, a strategist of guerrilla warfare who gave us our nationality. The light which guided our path to complete and total freedom has gone out. The man who united all our aspirations, all national fragments and tendencies, to form the only solid basis from which to frustrate all enemy activity, both from within and without, is gone. We have lost the man in whose hands lay the general direction of a nation, the intransigent defender of the interests of 14 million people.

Let us continue along his path despite the sacrifices which may be needed, sacrifices which he taught us to bear and which he personified. There is no one capable of halting our march; one death or one thousand deaths will not stop us. In Mozambique, we have lost a man, but not a direction, not a cause. On the contrary, once again we will reaffirm our ideal with renewed certainty that it will triumph.

Africa, particularly southern Africa, has lost the man who taught all its people not to consider themselves completely free until all neighboring people had also won their freedom. What did Samora Machel represent to southern Africa? Everyone knows the answer to that question. What is still open to question, however, are the circumstances under which he died. It was not only the leader of Mozambique who died, but a leader of the world. Samora Machel was the president of a nation which offered itself to the world as a secure base from which to achieve universal progress and happiness. An experienced political leader, an unwavering diplomat, has died. The earthly form of the man who became the unconditional defender of the masses, who are poor in material things but rich in their vision of the future, is gone. But are Mozambique, Africa, and the rest of the world lost? That would be unthinkable.

A man has died, but when a man with the qualities of President Samora Machel dies under such circumstances no death can destroy an ideal when it is correct. The death of Samora does not weaken our forces; it strengthens them. It is our duty and our commitment to continue the work of someone who is lost in such a way because we are following the right path. The justness of our struggle is implicit in the enemy's unceasing hostility toward this great man.

Samora Machel had many friends, but he died at the hands of his enemies. They feared him, because they knew how far his struggle would advance and that they could not have gone on resisting him much longer. It now falls to us to continue this struggle and it is proper that we make Samora's enemies continue to fear him even though he is dead and even if others have to die. Men may die, but the world is made up of the people and the people never die. As Samora used to say: We are a people, we shall win!

Survivor Discounts Sabotage

MB270647 Gaborone Domestic Service in English
0510 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] One of the survivors of the crash, Mr Fernando Joao, who was also one of the president's bodyguards, said yesterday that there was no possiblity of internal sabotage on President Machel's plane crash.

Mr Joao told a press conference in Maputo that he himself had guaranteed the security of the presidential aircraft.

Another survivor, Mr Almeida Pedro, a video (?cameraman) at the Maputo company (Telefin), said when the South African police arrived on the scene of the crash, they did nothing to aid the wounded, but instead took away documents from the plane.

Officials 'Surprised' at Flight Engineer's Interview

MB241354 Maputo in English to Southern Africa
1100 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Mozambican officials were surprised yesterday to read accounts coming from South Africa of an interview allegedly given from his bed by flight engineer Vladimir Novosselov. The French news agency reported that Vladimir Novosselov had said his experience as a pilot was the only thing that allowed 10 of the plane's passengers to survive.

The Johannesburg *The Star* newspaper claimed that Mr Novosselov said he had tried to belly-land the plane, adding that his flying instincts must have taken over. Mr Novosselov, however, is not a pilot. He is a flight engineer. Flight engineer Novosselov is supposed to have made the statement through an interpreter.

However, this was not an ordinary translator from Russian to English. It was a South African military interpreter.

News reports from South Africa have raised many questions in the Mozambican capital. One of them is that why does South Africa and its media persist in referring to flight engineer Novosselov as a pilot? The other is: Why were journalists allowed to visit a patient seriously wounded in an intensive care unit?

Maputo Reports Work of Commission of Inquiry

MB251526 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1300 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] The international commission investigating the plane crash that killed President Samora Machel began its work in Komatipoort yesterday. At this neighboring town, the commission held its first meeting, which lasted for about 2 and 1/2 hours and was attended by delegations from Mozambique, the USSR, and South Africa. The Mozambican delegation was led by Dr Fernando Vaz, deputy minister of health, and included Dr Paulo Muchanga, engineer Antonio Neves, and other civil aviation officials and jurists.

The Soviet side was led by Ivan Dontsov, chief technician of the flight safety of the Civil Aviation Commission, and also included Leonid Seliakov, principal builder of Tupolev planes; Vladimir Terniakov, principal engineer of the Civil Aviation Ministry; (Vladimir Komolov), chief engineer of the Civil Aviation Ministry; Aleksandr Chriaev, technician of the flight safety of the Civil Aviation State Commission; and (Valadlam Korororkin), technician of the Soviet secretariat attached to the International Civil Aviation Organization, as well as five other people.

The South African delegation comprised General Lothar Neethling of the police force; Major (Graham Hosher) of the Air Force; and (Rodon) of civil aviation, and was led by Piet de Klerk of the Department of Civil Aviation.

Part of the tripartite commission visited the crash site in the afternoon while the other part traveled to Pretoria to visit presidential plane flight engineer Vladimir Novosselov who survived the disaster. Dr Fernando Vaz and members of the Soviet and South African delegations saw and heard the patient at Pretoria's military hospital. As far as the commission is concerned, his statement yesterday is considered the only valid statement he has made so far. The Mozambican and Soviet delegations returned to Maputo early yesterday evening.

Radio Reports Chissano Speech to Diplomats 22 Oct

MB251853 Maputo in English to Southern Africa
1800 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Radio Maputo has received the recording of an address by Mozambique's Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano at a meeting with the diplomatic corps in Maputo on Wednesday. During the meeting, Mr Chissano briefed the diplomats about the air crash in which Samora Machel was killed and the preparations for the funeral. Mr Chissano also spoke about the running of the country at present by the Frelimo Party.

[Begin Chissano recording in Portuguese fading into English translation] The Political Bureau, on behalf of the Central Committee, under the terms of our constitution, is leading the country. At this moment, we are contemplating on the organization of the funeral ceremony, but also on the leadership of the country in all its aspects — economic, political, diplomatic, and military. We feel we are responding to the orders given to us by our commander in chief, the president of the Republic, and the president of Frelimo Party. All the directives he gave us remain valid and we are fulfilling them at this moment as if he was still alive. So, we are working with the same view. Under the terms of the constitution, the Political Bureau is leading the country. We, by tradition, are never in a hurry because we don't have quarrels amongst ourselves. We are not in a hurry. So there will be a lot of speculation amongst diplomats and among the press but we are sure that most of this speculation will be off the mark, because in our country there are no political quarrels. There is unity and we will take our time to make the decision to remedy this loss; and we say remedy because neither President Samora Machel nor his leadership can be replaced, but we will find ways to remedy the situation with healthy deliberations inside our party and there are people who support us in this task for the consolidation of our independence, for the furtherance of the aims of our constitution, and the aims of our party. [end recording]

That was part of an address by Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano to the diplomatic corps in Maputo on Wednesday.

Reports on Funeral Ceremonies for Samora Machel

Party, Government Officials Pay Homage

MB241554 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1500 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the People's Republic of Mozambique are paying their last homage to President Samora Moises Machel at the city hall where he is lying in state. Representatives of states and peoples worldwide are today bidding farewell to the man who has always been a firm and tireless fighter for peace in the region and the world, as well as for the establishment of just and harmonious relations among all states of the international community.

The ceremony in homage to President Samora Machel began early this afternoon at the city hall. First to pay their respects were relatives of President Samora Machel, including his widow, Graca Machel. They were followed by members of the Political Bureau and the Central Committee, as well as secretary generals of mass democratic organizations. Viewing the body after them were members of the People's Assembly Standing Commission and people's assemblies secretaries based in Maputo. They were followed by members of the Council of Ministers, ministers, deputy ministers, and secretaries of state, as well as senior officers of defense and security forces.

After members of the diplomatic corps, cadres attached to the Central Committee, direct assistants of the party president, staff from the Presidency of the Republic and leading cadres of the city of Maputo, as well as religious officials will also pay their homage to President Samora Machel until about 2000 hours.

Soviets, Cubans, Nicaraguans Arrive

MB261941 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] The first deputy president of the Soviet Union [title as heard] Geydar Aliyev, a member of the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party, arrived in Maputo today at the head of his country's delegation to pay last respects to President Samora Machel. Another visiting mourner who arrived today is the vice president of the State Council of Cuba, Jorge Risquet. The vice president of Nicaragua, Sergio Ramirez, also arrived in the Mozambican capital today heading his country's delegation to the funeral of president Samora Machel. Official delegations from the Democratic Republic of Yemen and Poland also arrived today. In addition, the foreign minister and the defense minister of Zambia also arrived in Maputo today.

Tambo Received in Audience

MB241958 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Marcelino dos Santos, member of the Political Bureau of the Frelimo Party Central Committee, received in audience this evening Oliver Tambo, president of the ANC of South Africa. Oliver Tambo presented condolences to the leadership of Frelimo Party following the death of President Samora Mchel. Speaking on behalf of the South African people and ANC members, Oliver Tambo said that he was deeply shocked by this tragic incident and reaffirmed that we shall continue to fight side by side until victory.

In reply, Marcelino dos Santos, who was accompanied by Mozambican Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano, said that during this period of grief we need (?affection), solidarity, and sympathy. We are all shaken [words indistinct], the senior Frelimo Party official said. Marcelino dos Santos also received in audience Pierre Nze, a member of the Political Bureau and secretary of external relations of the Congolese Labor Party who came to present condolences on the death of President Samora Machel.

Soviet Delegation, Tambo Pay Tribute

MB261841 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Excerpts] Cape Verde President Aristides Pereira and former Portuguese head of state General Ramlho Eanes, visited the city hall this morning to once again express their respect and admiration for the Mozambican leader. [passage omitted]

Also paying homage to Samora Moises Machel was the Soviet delegation led by the first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and which included party, government, and military officials, as well as cadres from the CPSU Central Committee who were directly linked to the struggle for national liberation and Frelimo leadership. The Soviet delegation was followed by Oliver Tambo, president of the ANC of South Africa, who expressed in writing in the book of condolences opened at the city hall the sentiments of his movement and people: Khanimbambo [thank you] Comrade President, for your leadership and love. It was not only the Mozambican people who have been deprived of a great and beloved leader but also the people of South Africa and the ANC, the frontline heads of state, and the entire people of southern Africa, he wrote. Oliver Tambo concludes his message with a pledge by the ANC and the South African people to take up the fallen gun and continue with the realization of the objectives and ideals for which Samora Machel always fought. [passage omitted]

Nyerere Pays Respects

MB241553 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1500 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] At the city hall this afternoon, Julius Nyerere, chairman of Chama Cha Mapinduzi, paid personal homage to the late President Samora Machel. Julius Nyerere was accompanied by Marcelino dos Santos, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party and secretary of the People's Assembly Standing Commission, as well as by members of his delegation who include Salim Ahmed Salim, Tanzanian minister of defense. The chairman of Chama Cha Mapinduzi signed the condolence book in homage to President Samora Machel.

Nyerere Holds Talks

MB251600 Dakar PANA in English 1519 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Maputo, 25 Oct (Shihata/PANA) — The chairman of Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), Julius Nyerere yesterday called on the Mozambican people to remain calm and maintain unity as a tribute to their fallen President Samora Machel.

Addressing the Political Bureau of the Frelimo Party at its headquarters in Maputo yesterday afternoon Nyerere said: "The best way we can remember Comrade Samora is maintain unity, defeat the bandits and help rid southern Africa of apartheid."

He said: "We are confident with Frelimo, we are poor, but we are brothers. We struggled together."

"I don't know what will be the real cause of the crash. It's almost irrelevant. Comrade Samora Machel died as a victim of apartheid. We are now crying," Nyerere said.

"Please, maintain your unity, please," he pleaded.

Almost failing to control himself, he said the CCM delegation had come to Mozambique to express sympathies with the Mozambican people in this trying hour of your history.

During the meeting, which lasted about an hour, CCM chairman delivered a message of the CCM Central Committee to the Political Bureau of Frelimo.

The message was earlier scheduled to have been delivered by a member of the Central Committee, Kingunge Ngombale-Mwiru.

Nyerere arrived in Maputo earlier yesterday at the head of a strong CCM delegation, which included Salim Ahmed Salim, a member of the Central Committee and secretary to its defence commission, Kingunge Ngombale-Mwiru, a member of the Central Committee and head of the Department of Ideology and Political Education and Training, members of the National Executive Committee, Horace Kolimba, Gibbons Mwaikambo, and chairman of Jumuia ya Vijana [youth league], Andrew Masanje.

During the talks, the Mozambican side was led by a member of the Frelimo Politburo and secretary of the People's Assembly Marcelino dos Santos. It included the following members of the Politburo: Albert Chipande (defence minister), Oscar Monteiro (state administration), Mariano Matsinhe, Jorge Rebelo, Armando Guebuza, Sebastiao Mabote, Jacinto Veloso, Mario de Graca Machungo (prime minister).

Speaking for Frelimo, Marcelino dos Santos, thanked CCM for sending a high-powered delegation to "share with us this very difficult hour. Together we can continue the struggle Comrade Samora started. For us, this is a great encourgament."

Dos Santos (?pledged) Frelimo is "alive and strong." He told the CCM delegation that the late President Samora will be buried at Hero's Square in Maputo on Tuesday, while the rest of the victims of the air crash will be buried the following day.

Earlier, the CCM chairman, accompanied by Mama Maria Nyerere, went to express his condolences to the widow of the late president, Graca, who is also Mozambique's minister for education.

Later, Nyerere and part of his delegation drove to the city mortuary to lead a procession carrying the coffin of the late Mozambican president to city hall.

Nyerere, who left city hall late afternoon, later laid a wreath on the coffin of his best friend, his comrade-in-arms in the struggle for liberation Samora Machel. He later signed a book of condolence at the city hall.

The Mozambican capital, whose characteristic is one of bustling life, wore a sombre mood as the country remained stunned in shock at the tragic death of their first president, killed in South Africa on Sunday in yet unexplained circumstances.

The government has already formed a national commission of inquiry to investigate into the cause of the crash. The commission is headed by a member of the Frelimo Party Politburo, Armando Guebuza.

Pereira, Eanes Arrive

MB251341 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1300 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Aristides Pereira, president of Cape Verde, and Ramalho Eanes, former Portuguese head of state, arrived in Maputo a few moments ago to attend the funeral ceremony of the leader of the Mozambican revolution. Aristides Pereira and Ramalho Eanes were received on their arrival at Maputo International Airport by Marcelino dos Santos, a member of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau.

Reports on Funeral Ceremonies for Samora Machel

Respects Paid to Machel's Wife

MB260654 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1900 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Some of the delegations present in Maputo on the occasion the death of Marshal Samora Moises Machel, chairman of Frelimo and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, presented their condolences to his widow, Graca Machel, today. The first to present his condolences was Oliver Tambo, the president of the ANC, followed by Pierre Nze, member of the Political Bureau of the Congolese Labor Party and secretary of foreign affairs. A delegation from the Republic of Zimbabwe, led by Nathan Shamuyarira, minister of information, posts, and telecommunications, also went to present its condolences to Graca Machel.

The last delegation to be received by Mrs Graca Machel was that of the People's Republic of Angola, led by Alexandre Rodrigues, member of the Political Bureau of the MPLA-Labor Party and Angolan minister of interior. On the occasion, Alexandre Rodrigues again reaffirmed his conviction that the blood of Samora Machel which was spilled in South Africa will take root against apartheid. The Angolan minister of interior added that, with this act, apartheid had signed its own death warrant.

Chissano Gives Eulogy

MB270933 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0700 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Eulogy for the victims of the 19 October 1986 aircraft crash, from the Frelimo Party Central Committee, Political Bureau, the People's Assembly Standing Commission, and the Council of Ministers; read by Joaquim Alberto Chissano, member of the Frelimo Party Central Committee Political Bureau; in Maputo — live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Dear comrades and friends: The Mozambican nation mourns the passing away of our colleagues Luis Maria de Alcantara Santos, Jose Carlos Lobo, Aquino de Braganca, Lieutenant Colonel Fernando Honwana, Alberto Cangela de Mendonca, (Muradali Muhammad Hussein), Joao Tomas Navesse, Ivete Lidia Luisa Amons, Osvaldo Fernando de Sousa, Bernardino Carlos dos Santos Chiche, Gulamo Khan, Major Daniel Maquinasse, Captain Parente Francisco Manjate, Nacir Charamadane, Adao Gore Nhoca, Eduardo Viegas, Alberto Ernesto Chauque, Alibino Falteira, Jose Quivanhane, Azarias Ionguane, 2d Lieutenant Fernando Lazaro Nhaquila, noncommissioned officer Orlanda Garrine, Esmeralda Luisa, Sofia Francisco Arone, and Maria Ilda Carrao.

On behalf of the Frelimo Party Central Committee Political Bureau , the People's Assembly Standing Commission, and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique, we would like to present our deepest and most sincere condolences to our dear colleagues' mourning families.

This sorrow is shared by all Mozambicans from Rovuma River to Maputo River. They feel your grief as mothers, fathers, spouses, children, and brothers. We thank you for your love, tenderness, zeal, support, and domestic harmony, as well as your understanding of the tasks which so often separated our dear colleagues from you. We are well aware of the immense importance of the happiness of these homes, so that our colleagues could dedicate all their energy, intelligence, and work to their tasks as militants and patriots.

We bid farewell to colleagues whose lives enriched our own lives. They were colleagues who knew how to translate their love for the fatherland and the people into concrete action, arduous combat, and fertile work.

Their example as militants, revolutionaries, freedom fighters, internationalists, and patriots will forever remain alive in our memory. The work that they left and the fruits of the struggle for which they fought are already part of mankind's history. Their lives will forever remain engraved in the immortal pages of that great book which is the collective memory of our people. They will always be a constant source of inspiration to the coming generations.

From Rovuma River to Maputo River, the hands of Mozambicans reach out to take up the weapons which only death prevented our colleagues from continuing to hold firmly. We will all continue their struggle. We will be more united by their example, firmer by their courageous legacy, and more determined by the memory of the blood they shed. They will always be present in the heart of each one of us, in the heat of each new struggle we may fight, and in the exultation of all our victories. They made the fatherland. The fatherland will always make us. [words indistinct]. The struggle continues.

Kaunda Urges Frontline Summit

MB271205 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Excerpts] Kenneth Kaunda, president of Zambia and chairman of the Frontline States, arrived in Maputo a few minutes ago. [passage omitted]

Kenneth Kaunda suggested in a message that, as a gesture to pay a final homage to the great Mozambican leader, a frontline summit be held in Maputo after the funeral ceremony. In his message, Kenneth Kaunda says that he instructed the Zambian delegation headed by the Zambian foreign minister [passage indistinct].

USSR, GDR, India Pledge Aid

MB242029 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Excerpts] A number of countries have already guaranteed donations to aid Mozambique during this period of mourning following the death of President Samora Machel. The countries which expressed readiness to assist Mozambique include the USSR, the GDR, Zimbabwe, and India. Part of this material assistance has already arrived in the country. [passage omitted]

Furthermore, the residents of Maputo are responding positively to the appeal made by the Central Commission for the Organization of Funeral Ceremonies to provide accommodation for the foreign delegations which have already started to arrive in the capital.

Renamo Resistance Not Following Pope's Truce

AU271048 Paris AFP in English 1043 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Lisbon, Oct 27 (AFP) — The rebel Mozambican National Resistance movement (MNR) is not following the call for a day of truce issued by Pope John Paul II, the MNR's European spokesman Paulo Oliveira said here Monday.

The Pope urged for a halt to fighting throughout the world during his meeting in Assisi, Italy, Monday with other religious leaders to pray for peace.

African guerrilla groups which have said they would not be fighting Monday include the National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola (UNITA) and the Polisario Front of Western Sahara.

SOUTH AFRICA

Further on Repurcussions of Machel Plane Crash

2d Mozambican Delegation Arrives

MB241206 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1148 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Komatipoort, Oct 24, SAPA — A second Mozambican delegation arrived at Komatipoort airport today to collect personal belongings of those killed in last Sunday's air crash in Natal.

The Soviet and Mozambican delegation that arrived for talks with South African civil aviation and forensic officials this morning completed their discussion shortly after 1pm, and broke for lunch before joining the other delegation at the airport.

Some of the Soviet and Mozambican officials are to visit the scene of the crash this afternoon, while 10 of the officials are going to visit survivors in South African hospitals.

The officials would be back in Maputo "before dark," Mr Koos van Tonder, the local Bureau for Information spokesman told SAPA.

Newsmen and photographers were allowed into the talks between the South African, Mozambican and Soviet officials for a brief photographic session at the end of the discussions.

The head of the police forensic unit, Gen Lothar Neethling, was asked by reporters whether there would be any statement after the meeting. He said the matter was sub-judice.

Investigating Officials 'Left Behind'

LD242158 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Eight members of the Soviet and Mozambican delegations investigating Sunday's air crash in South Africa and who were due to return to Maputo today, were left behind in the South African border town of Komatipoort after their aircraft encountered weather problems. The aircraft, a Soviet Antonov-26, had taken other members of the delegation to Pretoria to interview the surviving Soviet crew member, who is receiving medical treatment there, and was to have picked up the eight delegation members at Komatipoort on its way back to Maputo. However, the pilot of the aircraft could not find Komatipoort airport because of heavy cloud conditions similar to those that preceded the crash of the aircraft last Sunday night in which President Samora Machel of Mozambique and 28 others lost their lives.

Malan Warns Neighbors on Accusations

MB261411 Johannesburg THE SUNDAY STAR in English 26 Oct 86 pp 1, 2

[By John d'Oliveira, Africa News Service editor, and David Breier, political correspondent]

[Excerpts] Tension is mounting in Southern Africa as claims and counter-claims about who was to blame for the air crash that killed Mozambican President Samora Machel and 33 others threaten a regional Cold War.

As the heat turned on South Africa, Minister of Defence General Magnus Malan yesterday warned the country's neighbours that any further allegations that we brought down the aircraft would have a "negative effect" on our relations with them.

The warning came as the first semi-official indication of what caused President Machel's Russian-built Tupolev 134 jetliner to plunge into a mountainside started to emerge.

The Sunday Star was told by sources close to the disaster inquiry that the aircraft almost certainly crashed as a result of navigational error.

General Malan told neighbouring countries to stop insinuating that South Africa had brought down the aircraft.

In a veiled threat to Mozambique and other southern African states, he told the *The Sunday Star* that any further accusations implicating South Africa would have a "negative effect" on his country's co-operation with its neighbours.

His cool reaction was prompted by views such as that expressed yesterday in the front-page editorial in Maputo's semi-official daily, *Noticias*, which asked: "Can there still be anyone who doubts who is responsible?" [passage omitted]

Replying, General Malan said: "The government has given its assurance that it was in no way involved in President Machel's accident, yet leaders of neighbouring countries and other organisations in neighbouring states now make pronouncements that the RSA was responsible.

"I wish to state that South Africa was in no way involved in this tragic event.

"Any further insinuations in this regard must of necessity have a negative effect on the co-operation which South Africa desires and which I have emphasised recently in almost all my speeches.

"Accusations, innuendo and propaganda against South Africa serve no purpose. It is a tragedy that President Machel's death should be used as propaganda against South Africa," he said.

He added that a proper inquiry was taking place. [passage omitted]

South African sources close to the inquiry say the air corridor running north-south between Mozambique and South Africa is frequently used.

There would be no reason for the South African radar observers to be suspicious of these air movements. There would also not have been the slightest reason to scramble fighters or to communicate with the aircraft concerned.

Even assuming South Africa in some way lured the aircraft into its territory, there would have been no way of ensuring that it would collide with the spur of the Lebombo mountains at that point instead of flying safely over the Lowveld at near sea level.

The sources believe that what happened was that the aircraft mistook the radio beacon at Komatipoort for the one at Maputo, causing it to go about 60 km off course to the west.

The prevailing wind at Maputo would be from the east. This in the normal course of events would cause the pilot to turn inland to the east in order to make his landing from the west into the wind.

But since he was off course he made this manoeuvre into the Lebombo mountains. Due to poor visibility he had to rely on navigational aids.

The pilot had told Maputo control he could see the runway. Since the control tower must have known he was nowhere near, they should have warned him immediately something was wrong.

This would point to navigational error being compounded by control tower negligence.

The fact that the landing gear was extended and that passengers had been told to fasten their seatbelts for landing, tended to confirm the theory that the pilot was convinced he was about to land and had no idea of his true position when he crashed a few hundred metres inside South African territory.

Police Ban AZAPO Memorial Service

MB241257 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1253 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Cape Town, Oct 24, SAPA — The divisional commissioner of police for the western province, Brig Chris Swart today banned a memorial service for President Samora Machel organised by AZAPO (Azanian People's Organisation) and AZASM (Azanian Students Movement) scheduled to be held at a Presbyterian church in Guguletu today.

Brig Swart added that the memorial service would not be allowed to be held at any other venue today.

Nelson Mandela Letter Revealed

MB270650 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Nelson Mandela is reported to have expressed his condolences at the death of Mozambican President Samora Machel. The *Business Day* newspaper says a letter from the jailed ANC leader has been smuggled out of Pollsmoor Prison in Cape Town and taken to Maputo. The contents of the letter and to whom it has been given are unknown, but a Maputo source says the letter arrived on Friday. The source also says the letter will probably be made public at President Machel's funeral tomorrow.

Pik Botha Says RSA May Mediate in Mozambique

MB261354 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 26 Oct 86 p 2

[By political correspondent Lester Venter]

[Text] South Africa may still play a mediating role in bringing warring Mozambican groups Frelimo and Renamo to the peace table, according to Foreign Minister Pik Botha.

Mr Botha said he had "got the impression any of the parties won't mind us playing that role if we can come up with realistic proposals for both sides."

South Africa had, however, not yet been asked outright to do this.

Mr Botha's remarks at the weekend followed reports from informed government sources this week that proposals were being formulated in a low-key bid to start negotiations between the Frelimo government and the rebel movement, Renamo.

Mr Botha said much depended on how the power vacuum left by the death of President Samora Machel was filled.

South African Government analysts says there is a split in Frelimo ranks between the hardline communist ideologues and the pragmatic nationalists, among whom President Machel was the leading figure.

A Mozambican envoy was due in Pretoria this week to arrange a meeting between President Machel and the State President, Mr P.W. Botha.

"Fate has robbed us of this opportunity," Mr Botha said. "You can imagine my feelings when I saw President Machel lying there dead in the veld."

Stability in Mozambique was a priority and "no doubt inevitable" — but there were realistic fears that there could be "much turbulence before that happens," Mr Botha said.

Mr Botha was speaking at the end of a high-profile week in South African foreign affairs, occasioned by the death of President Machel and the signing of a water-development treaty with Lesotho.

In the wake of President Machel's death came unprecedented contact with the Soviets.

And a Soviet contingent arrived in the country to form part of the official investigation into the accident.

On Friday, Mr Botha signed the R4,000-million Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme Treaty in Maseru.

South African foreign affairs officials were cautiously banding on the week's events as signals of new pragmatism bridging the ideological divide between South Africa and other countries in the sub-continent.

Youths Disrupt School Examinations

MB241234 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1222 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 24 SAPA — The first day of the matric examinations was marred at several centres in Soweto today after sjambok-wielding youths stormed various centres where hundreds of matric pupils were writing the first paper. Pandemonium broke loose minutes after examinations had started and the youths who stormed the classrooms tore up papers and sent pupils and teachers running in all directions, a witness said. Several students were injured when the youths stormed the centres.

Reporters visited eight examination centres and examinations were disrupted at all of these centres.

At two centres in Orlando West, youths entered classrooms and hit the pupils with sjamboks. Some youths were brandishing knives. Some pupils tried to ward off the youths and many girls stumbled and fell when they were being whipped.

At a centre in Molapo, youths tore up the examination papers and also sjambokked pupils. A number of the children had cuts after they were attacked with knives.

Yesterday about 30 people set fire to the Thaba Jabula school in Soweto, according to the Bureau of Information. "Reasonable damage" was caused and no arrests have been made.

Examinations ran smoothly on the east Rand and the director of the Department of Education and Training [DET], Mr J.H. Booysens, said circuit inspectors in the region reported that all was going according to plan. About 5294 pupils reported for the final matric examinations in the highveld region — incorporating the east Rand and parts of the eastern Transvaal — today. In KwaThema about 90 per cent of the pupils are reported to have turned up for the examinations.

Mr Booysens said candidates at the adult centres also began writing the examinations today. He said security was arranged at the exam centres after some candidates had asked for protection.

A veil of secrecy has been thrown over the location of the examination centres in the Soweto region.

Mr Peter Mundell, spokesman for the DET, declined to disclose the location of exam centres in Soweto. He said: "The examination centres have been situated at convenient points all over the Johannesburg area."

According to the DET only a small percentage of the total matriculants would be sitting for the exam today.

"African languages higher grade, paper 1, is a choice subject and varies from region to region," said a spokesman for the DET.

Any major disruption of exams planned would only be apparent when the compulsory English paper is written on November 7. The last paper is written on Nov 24.

Acording to the chief of the public relations at the DET, Mr Job Schoeman, about 250,000 pupils had registered in April to write their finals. Mr Schoeman said, of the 250,000 registered, he expected a drop-out rate of about 5 per cent. Last year 191,000 pupils wrote the exams. Mr Schoeman said police protection was being provided for pupils writing in "troubled areas."

Many Soweto pupils were uncertain yesterday whether they would write their exams because of allegations of threats by youths.

While several students claim they have been threatened by youths not to write, several pamphlets circulated in Soweto yesterday urged pupils to write the papers. One anonymous pamphlet said pupils should write the exams because "the children of the NECC [National Education Crisis Committee] leaders will write their exams in expensive private schools undisturbed." The pamphlet also said chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's youth would write their exams. "Tomorrow they will be educated leaders. If we do not write we will be their illiterate slaves." The pamphlet concluded: "Matrics in Soweto will unite to write."

In the past few weeks youths have threatened pupils receiving Saturday tuition at a local university and other places where lessons had been offered.

On Tuesday, two buses belonging to Arrow Coaches were destroyed by fire after being ambushed by youths. The buses were carrying private pupils to an adult education centre.

Black Students To Have 'Adequate Security' at Exams

MB241421 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1415 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Oct 24, SAPA — Police had not posted guards at examination centres in Soweto where matric examinations were disrupted today due to "a shortage of security personnel."

But, a Bureau for Information spokesman in Pretoria said today, there would "definitely" be adequate security for black matric candidates as from Monday.

The bureau commented on the apparent lack of security which contributed to examinations in Soweto being disrupted by sjambok-wielding youths today.

A number of candidates were sjambokked and scratched with knives when youths stormed examination centres and tore up papers, according to reports. Police were not seen to be guarding most of the centres.

The bureau said it had obtained its information from the Department of Education and Training, which said it had requested security forces to guard examination centres this week.

Police however had given the assurance today that they would protect any examination centre which requested it, the bureau added.

Soweto Group Opposes Guards at School Exams

MB261641 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1632 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Soweto, Oct 26, SAPA — The Soweto Civic Association said the deployment of guards by authorities in the townships tomorrow to protect pupils writing exams would only worsen the situation.

In a statement issued today the association said the request by pupils that the exams be postponed seemed to be a legitimate request given the fact that there had hardly been any schooling this year.

The association called on the DET [Department of Education and Training] to grant permission for those pupils not ready to write this year to be given permission to write next years.

"The Soweto Parents Crisis Committee and the Soweto Civic Association wish to make it clear that certain undemocratic actions by students need to be analysed for their negative nature and that there has not been any national decision to boycott education indefinitely," the statement said.

"A boycott tactic is not a principle and therefore students are asked to behave responsibly," the statement said.

A Bureau for Information spokesman in Pretoria said last week there would "definitely" be adequate security for black matric candidates.

Police had given the assurance they would protect any examination centre which requested it, the bureau added.

Information Bureau Reports Attendance at Exams

MB241645 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1630 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Pretoria, Oct 24, SAPA — Matriculants refused to write examinations at one centre in Soweto today while at another a principal barred candidates from writing when they arrived late, the Bureau for Information said in Pretoria today.

The bureau supplied the information in addition to reports gathered by journalists about disruptions at a number of examination venues in Soweto today, the first day of the Department of Education and Training's matric examinations.

The bureau obtained its information from the police, and could not vouch for the spelling of schools' names.

At Tabo Jabula school pupils refused to enter examination hall. Security forces could not detect any sign of intimidation however.

The principal of Bona high school barred candidates from writing when they arrived late. It did not appear that they had been delayed due to intimidation, the bureau said.

At Lobone high school at Mabulu central a number of youths intimidated pupils after they had completed writing the examination, and tore their books. Security forces were called but failed to apprehend the culprits.

Jabulani technical high school matriculants were also intimidated after having written their examinations but the intimidators also disappeared when the security forces arrived.

Delegates Expelled From Red Cross Meeting in Geneva

NC251139 Paris AFP in English 1135 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Geneva, Oct 25 (AFP) — Delegates at the 25th International Red Cross conference, in an unprecedented move, voted on Saturday to expel South Africa Government officials from the meeting.

The vote, taken on a show of hands after a wrangle about voting procedure, showed 159 delegates for the exclusion, 25 against and eight abstaining.

A deadlock over the motion, proposed by Kenya, had paralysed the conference since it began on Thursday. African delegates had threatened to walk out if the South African group was seated.

They had also refused to allow the vote to be made by secret ballot.

The decision does not affect the participation of the South African Red Cross Society.

Delegates of Western industrialized nations, opposing the motion, have expressed fears that the decision will open the floodgates to other such demands.

They also point out that the Red Cross statutes forbid the movement from taking sides in political or ideological disputes.

The meeting is being attended by 160 delegations from states which have signed the Geneva conventions on conduct in time of war, and officials from 144 national Red Cross societies.

Future of Red Cross in RSA Questioned

MB251433 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1430 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Pretoria, Oct 25, SAPA — The government would now have to consider whether the International Red Cross could still play a useful role in the country following South Africa's expulsion from the organisation at a conference in Geneva, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said today.

At a meeting in the Intenational Red Cross today, the conference voted 159 to 25, with eight abstentions, to back a Kenyan proposal that the South African Government delegation be expelled until it abandoned its apartheid polices.

Mr Botha said it was "with regret" he had learned of the suspension by the Red Cross of the government delegation "in violation of its statutes in the course of its meeting, notable only for its total disregard of accepted rules of procedure.

"The International Red Cross Movement claims a unique position in the world, based on fundamental principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality. South Africa's suspension is in violation of these principles," said Mr Botha.

"The movement has for some considerable time played a role in southern Africa in general and in South Africa in particular."

He said the government had valued the movement's humanitarian contributions in the region and had granted it support and assistance as far as had been possible.

"While continuing to give its fullest support to the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross, the South African Government will now have to consider whether the movement can still play a useful role in the country," Mr Botha said.

It was the first time in the history of the International Red Cross movement that a country had been ousted from such a conference, usually held every four years.

The Kenyan proposal accepted by the conference emphasised that only the official Pretoria delegation was being excluded, and that the South African Red Cross Society was welcome to stay. A spokesman said the Red Cross Society would remain.

The South African team, led by Ambassador Mr Jeremy Shearar, left the hall immediately after the vote, telling delegates: "It is not we, Mr Chairman, who are humiliated here today."

Red Cross Representatives Expelled

MB260515 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2312 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Pretoria Oct 25 SAPA — The South African Government has requested the representatives of the International Red Cross Committee in South Africa to leave the country as soon as possible, SABC radio news reports. This follows the suspension of South Africa's right to participate in the present Red Cross conference in Geneva.

The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said in a statement issued in Pretoria that the refusal to allow South Africa to take part in the proceedings was considered to be illegal. Consequently, the South African Government had decided to suspend the organisation's representation in the country until the government was again in a position to take part in conferences of the International Red Cross.

The International Red Cross mission in Pretoria has been informed about the request. A spokesman for the mission said he was awaiting instructions from Geneva and that he could not comment at this stage.

The International Red Cross mission in South Africa consists of about 15 Swiss nationals with offices in Pretoria and Windhoek. The South African Government will consult the interim government of SWA/Namibia regarding the Windhoek mission. SABC radio news reports that the group enjoys certain diplomatic privileges in terms of international procedure. It is therefore the first such step by the government against an organisation or body with quasi-diplomatic representation in South Africa since the latest increase in international pressure on the country. The chief of the International Red Cross mission in South Africa is Mr M. Mordasani who is currently abroad.

South African involvement at the International Red Cross conference in Geneva is linked directly to the fact that South Africa is a signatory to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. The South African Government, like all other governments which adhere to the Geneva code, has the right to participation in the conference.

The decision to suspend South Africa's participation is a violation of international law, SABC radio news reports. The South African Red Cross Society remains a member of the organisation.

'Serious Consequences' Noted

MB261653 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1650 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Pretoria, Oct 26, SAPA — The suspension of a South African Government delegation yesterday from the 25th International Conference of the Red Cross [ICRC] in Geneva was against the rules and procedures of the conference, a spokesman for the organisation said in Pretoria tonight.

The subsequent demand today by the South African Government that the ICRC suspend its activities in the Republic and leave the country within a period which has not been officially announced, would have "serious consequences."

Quoting from a statement issued in Geneva and telexed to the ICRC in Pretoria he said "the ICRC now fears that the decision taken at the 25th conference may have serious consequences for the people it assists and protects in the field.

"The activities in question consist of visiting about 300 sentenced prisoners, supporting the network of the national society, and giving aid to about 20,000 Mozambican refugees in the east of the country."

The spokesman said the ICRC had only been informed verbally by representatives of South Africa's Foreign Affairs Department of the government's decision, but that a formal message would be forwarded soon.

According to the Geneva statement, the ICRC considered that it could not take part in the vote at the conference on the participation of the South African Government delegation, since such a vote was against the rules and procedures of the conference.

ICRC president, Mr Alexandre Hay, said "what has been called into question for the first time is the representative character at the conference of the government delegation of a state which is — and no one contests the fact — party to the Geneva Convention.

"Now, any party to the Geneva Convention is, by right, a member of the conference.

"Therefore, the exclusion of the delegation of a member state runs counter to the statutes as they stand."

Mr Hay said the International Conference of the Red Cross was the supreme deliberative body of the movement and was composed of 165 states, which were party to the Geneva Convention, the 144 duly recognised national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, the League of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent societies.

Like the other participants, the ICRC had a single vote.

"The activities which ICRC delegates have been carrying out in South Africa stem from the ICRC's right of humanitarian initiative and not from a mandate under the Geneva Convention."

RSA Red Cross Regrets Expulsion

MB260944 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0934 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 26 SAPA — The South African Red Cross "greatly regrets" the suspension of their delegation from the international conference of the Red Cross, the president of the organisation here, Mr Gurth Walton, said in a statement released in Johannesburg today. "We are deeply distressed by an act designed to keep any invited party from attending the international conference of the Red Cross. In terms of the basic principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, especially the principle of universality, I am deeply distressed by any act designed to keep any invited party from attending the international conference of the Red Cross.

"Our voting stance together with many other delegations was non-participation. This was because in terms of the basic principle of universality and of the statutes of the International Red Cross the South African delegation, again in common with many other delegations, consider the whole voting procedure to have been unconstitutional. We of the SA Red Cross Society must remain determined to continue and intensify our humanitarian work in South Africa. We are proud that the wonderful work of our volunteers and staff among all communities of our beloved land have earned the approval and support of the International Red Cross community and of international societies throughout all continents of the world."

Tambo Says ANC Ready for Talks if Conditions Met

MB262100 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Oliver Tambo, president of the ANC of South Africa, said in Washington [as heard] that the ANC was ready to hold talks with South African leaders provided they show seriousness [words indistinct]. For Oliver Tambo, seriousness by the Pretoria regime would mean the release of Nelson Mandela, the historical leader of the ANC, who has been in prison for over 24 years, as well as the release of all political or (?other) leaders who would participate in the talks on the future of South Africa. The ANC president pointed out that the ANC [words indistinct]. In this context, Oliver Tambo recalled that [words indistinct] the ANC carried out a nonviolent war [words indistinct] but the racist Pretoria regime increased its repression against South Africa patriots. We (?can) change the concept of race and color in new South Africa [words indistinct] apartheid, the ANC president said when he was referring to the future of the country when the rights of all South African citizens would be protected without discrimination.

Six Dead in Mine Accident; Injured Rescued

MB270638 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0633 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Johannesburg October 27 SAPA — All twenty-six miners injured in yesterday's accident in a ventilation shaft at Randfontein Estates mine on the west Rand have been brought to the surface.

The bodies of six black miners who died when an empty cage snapped from its steel cable and plummeted down the 800 metre shaft have not yet been recovered.

Mr Ken Maxwell, chairman of Randfontein Estates Gold Mines, told SAPA this morning that rescue teams were still struggling to remove the tons of steel cable that are preventing the bodies from being extricated.

He said the bodies of three of the dead miners are lying on the upper deck of the cage and the three others are trapped beneath it.

PACE College To Close Temporarily Due to 'Crisis'

MB241456 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1428 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Oct 24, SAPA — The PACE Commercial College in Soweto is to close temporarily due to the ongoing crisis in black education and the decrease in income from parents and donors.

The American Chamber of Commerce [Amcham] in South Africa said in a statement today that the college was under severe financial pressure and activities at the college had been restricted due to events in Soweto which were preventing senior school education.

"Amcham is temporarily suspending the operation of the college pending the outcome of ongoing negotiations with the black community, who will formulate a new direction for the college," said the statement.

Radio Sees Growing 'Irrationality' in U.S. Stance

MB270524 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] A disturbing irrationalism is fast taking hold of the United States outlook on South Africa. It is an irrationalism that is in sharp contrast to the outlook of countries such as Britain and West Germany. They, and other European countries, have voiced objections to the situation in South Africa (as they perceive it to be) that are just as strong as those of the Americans. But the Europeans have initiatied sanctions against South Africa only after much contemplation and serious investigations into all aspects of the situation by high-level missions. Similar American action, on the other hand, has been based on emotionalism and rhetoric, which has been whipped up and sustained by a rat-pack of professional political activists aided and abetted by the sensation-seeking mass media.

Emotion and rhetoric -- bordering on the hysterical -- characterized the showdown on sanctions in the Senate. The rat-pack is now pressurizing big business: Some of the largest multinational corporations in America are following headlong after the rat pack, bewildered and uncertain as to just where and how far harassment by the activists and the media will extend.

Now, the irrationalism in the American outlook has plunged to a new low in a trade report by the United States Consulate General in Johannesburg. The report is not only negative -- as could be expected, but what would not be expected in a serious evaluation of an important subject by a major Western government is the cynical, abusive, and arrogant tone of the report.

Once again, there is a sharp contrast with evaluations made by European governments.

It would be easy to dismiss all this irrationality as merely depicting the naivete and insular tradition of the American people. But what must be borne in mind is that the United States is the leading nation in the Western world and South Africa needs to maintain a relationship with the American people that is as cordial as possible under present circumstances.

There is a friendship between the peoples of the two countries that stretches back for many generations. It is not the wish of the people of South Africa that that friendship should be destroyed. But it is a friendship that is being placed under increasing strain by the distorted image of South Africa maliciously portrayed by the professional political activists and much of the media.

South Africans want friendship with the American people: But that wish should not be seen by Americans as a licence for abusiveness and arrogance against this nation and this country.

That is the message that should be relayed loudly and clearly to the people of the United States.

Information Bureau Releases Unrest Reports

25 Oct

MB250948 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0937 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Pretoria Oct 25 SAPA — The following is the Bureau of Information's [as received] unrest report for the period 06h00 Oct 24 to 06h00 Oct 25:

"Pupils from the Thabo Jubula high school did not attend classes yesterday as they were scared of intimidators from other schools. Other students were also intimidated while returning from writing examinations.

"One youth was injured during a stone-throwing incident at the Anchor high school in Soweto. No arrests have been made.

"Unidentified people tore up exam papers at the Mathalmang high school on the west Rand. Two people were arrested.

"There were various incidents of stone-throwing, but no one was injured or arrested.

"All queries about President Machel's plane accident must be referred to the Department of Foreign Affairs."

26 Oct

MB261043 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1040 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Pretoria Oct 26 SAPA — The following is the Bureau for Information's unrest report for the period 06h00 Oct 25 to 06h00 Oct 26:

"In Soweto a group of about 70 people threw stones at a bus. Little damage was done and no police action was taken.

"In Chesterville, Durban, a group of black people approached a black man, Mr Armstrong Moloefe, 35, from 3076 Mpanza Road Lamontville while he was sitting in his car. They accused him of being a police informer. He was then fatally shot with a 1.9 mm pistol. No arrests were made.

"At 23h00 a black man Mr Jimbusi Giti of Mlungizi, Stutterheim, was wounded in his leg during police action."

27 Oct

MB271042 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1026 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Pretoria Oct 27 SAPA — Follows the Bureau for Information unrest report for the period 6am October 26 to 6am October 27:

"A black man, Nelson Ndlovu, 23, was killed last night when six black men set him on fire in Soweto. No arrests were made.

"In Bekkersdal (Westonaria) two black youths threw stones at a member of the security forces last night. The security force member fired two shots and one of the assailants, a 16-year-old, was fatally wounded. No arrests were made.

"In Tembisa (Kempton Park) yesterday a member of the security forces was forced to fire three shots in self-defence at two black men who were threatening to burn him alive. Both assailants were wounded and arested.

"A crowd of about 500 black people threw stones at a security force vehicle in Soetkloof (Despatch) yesterday. The security forces fired three shots to disperse the crowd. One member of the security forces was slightly injured in the incident. No arrests were made.

"About 50 black people assaulted and intimidated a member of the security forces in Nyanga (Cape Town) yesterday. Other force members arrived in time to save him. The member's service weapon, that was taken away from him by the attackers, was later recovered by the security forces. No arrests were made.

"A group of black youths yesterday set fire to the Sihana Morena school in Soweto. Considerable damage was caused. No arrests were made.

"In two separate incidents in Kagiso (Krugersdorp) black youths threw stones at the Matsupatsela secondary school. On both occasions the youths were dispersed by a member of the security forces who fired warning shots. In the second incident one youth was injured and arrested."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

MB240648 [Editorial Report]

THE STAR on Disinvestment

A page 10 editorial in Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 23 October comments on the departure from South Africa of American companies who nevertheless retain operations in the country saying: "We should not delude ourselves that disinvestment is a paper tiger. It is not." The editorial also says that "divorce from the world" is bad for South Africa because it needs "foreign capital and the concern that usually accompanies it" or it will eventually decline toward "Third World torpor and decrepitude." *The Star* believs that the "Nationalist racial policy has harmed the economy and alienated the international community" and should be "abandoned in its entirety."

THE STAR on Machel Death

A second editorial on the same page says that assassinating Mozambican President Samora Machel by "causing his aircraft to crash in South Africa" would have been "stupidity beyond belief," because it would endanger the Nkomati accord, and would allow "increased ANC incursions through Mozambique." The paper says that South Africa's "record in dealing roughly with neighbours" has invited the verdict of "murder". "The damage has been done. The mud will stick because what the South African Government has destroyed, long ago, is its credibility."

Private Sector Bridge 'To Peace'

"The South African business community is more mobilised for a role in the promotion of reform than any equivalent performance by capitalism elsewhere in the world," says executive chairman of the Urban Foundation, Jan Steyn, in a speech addressing the South Africa Club in London, carried on the same page."South African capitalism today is actively adapting to and promoting a post-apartheid society in the interests of growth, prosperity and stability from which it can benefit." Steyn believes the private sector has the "leverage of control over the economy on which the Government is fundamentally dependent for fiscal revenue and social development." He also points out that private sector alliances have had a vital part to play in virtually all the political reforms made by the government. He urges the support for the private sector and other, "including black-led, initiatives." He says that one cannot expect "in the current climate of bitterness, alienation and intimidation, that black leadership will take a lead in seeking reconciliation. The private sector (and its alliances) remains one of the few bridges to peace."

CITIZEN on Withdrawal of U.S. Firms

The page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 23 October comments on the withdrawal of major American firms from South Africa saying: "You have not only wrecked constructive engagement, but you have wrecked your influence here." The paper believes that the pullouts have given new opportunities to local entrepreneurs and that there are "some advantages in not being subjected to pressures from American interests through American subsidiaries here." "Far from being cowed by American disinvestment and sanctions, South Africans are more determined than ever to resist foreign pressures and to bring about the changes they themselves believe to be necessary," says the editorial

SOWETAN on Forced Removal

The page 4 editorial in Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 23 October comments on the government bid to force Oukasie residents out of their homes. The paper believes that politicians are "seemingly being held to ransom" by right-wing elements in Brits, the white town near Oukasie, who want to "get rid of this black community." "The Government should not be allowed to get away with this betrayal, especially after it was said that forced removals were to become a thing of the past," says the editorial. "We had been made to believe that the forced relocation of people from homes they have owned for years would end. But the Government is constantly blackmailed by its right-wingers to carry out the practice which they themselves have declared odious."

BUSINESS DAY on U.S. Pullout

Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 23 October focuses in a page 8 editorial on the withdrawal of American corporations from South Africa. The editorial says that for South African business the "dangers of isolation are acute, but in the short or medium term, individuals and companies will find fresh opportunities to prosper." However, "the flight of American companies will, especially if it is followed by European and other companies, aggravate the shortage of capital which is the principle obstacle to economic growth. Without economic growth there will be no new jobs — it is as simple as that," says the paper. *Business Day* points out that revolutionary theorists "hope that the growing army of unemployed black people will overthrow white rule." Yet, the paper feels that they will "simply undercut the wages of employed and unionised workers." "Sanctions will make the rich richer, and the poor poorer."

VADERLAND on TUCSA Conservativism

Johannesburg *Die Vaderland* in Afrikaans of 22 October says in an editorial on page 18: "After the government accepted the Wiehahn report, the disappearance of the Trade Union Council of South Africa (TUCSA) was only a matter of time. Its ideals and goals became government policy and, indeed, in some cases government even went beyond what the council stood for. And inevitably, TUCSA gained the image of being conservative, even pro-government. Against the new black trade unions' radicalism, its moderate multiracialism, its emphasis on pure labor conditions, and its principle of abiding by the new labor legislation in particular, served to its disadvantage. It was inevitable that its black members, individually and in concert, would be attracted by the stronger pool of black consciousness."

VADERLAND on Inflation Threat

A second editorial on the same page says it appears "inflation is a greater threat than sanctions for South Africa. If it is indeed true, then it means we are digging our own economic graves," says the editorial. The paper says that the danger lies in the fact that South Africans have been conditioned to believe inflation is "uncontrollable and unavoidable." *Die Vaderland* suggests that the causes of inflation be examined and points to the "abnormally high civil service increases" and the private sector's "unwillingness to make sacrifices" as contributors to the high inflation.

Fear Behind AWB Anger

On the same page Gert Kotze writes in his "On Close Inspection" column on the Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) and the National Party meetings held in Potgietersrus and comments on the "hysteria and hate which was noticeable at the AWB meeting." Kotze believes that the AWB's emotions have reached an intensity where it bears a "strong similarity with the emotion at a burial gathering of the United Democratic Front. Kotze says that fear is "at the root" of the mass hysteria and hate displayed by the AWB Afrikaners. "Fear of black domination" and "fear that P.W. Botha's reform might topple the white only control." Kotze says that the "AWB syndrome of beating right and taking everything back which belonged to the Boer population, shows the same characteristics of the Hitler approach before Nazi-Germany."

BEELD on Machel Death

On page 18, the Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans of 23 October says in an editorial: "Facts are unimportant. South Africa has been found guilty, and some people have already started issuing punishment — in the true tradition of kangeroo courts. Some of this country's enemies have tried to be more delicate after the air crash in which President Samora Machel died. If not directly, in the end it is still Pretoria's fault because apartheid caused all this, they say." It continues: "This is an extremely dangerous game, and we hope this fanning of hate and racism will stop." The paper says the death of President Machel is a tragic occurrence which must be thoroughly investigated." South Africa has already opened every possible door, and is treating the injured as well as it can. Mozambique will be able to testify to all the assistance that is being given. Trying to accuse and destroy in such circumstances is to add unhappiness and shame to tragedy."

BEELD on Withdrawal of Firms

A second editorial on the same page says: "When two of the world's largest companies decide to end their official presence in South Africa without them being actually compelled to do so, then it would seem there is no international company which cannot do the same. And if one looks through a particularly dark glass, one could say this is just the beginning of a massive exodus which will place the country into reverse for decades to come. Fortunately, one does not have to be so pessimistic." The editorial says it is to be hoped that the example set by the two companies in making their withdrawal as bearable as possible will be followed by others who will undoubtedly bend under the pressure.

TRANSVALER Urges Greater National Unity

A page 14 editorial in Pretoria *Die Transvaler* in Afrikaans on 20 October says: "In his address in Potgietersrus the State President P.W. Botha placed a high premium on greater national unity for all South Africans" against the assaults of the "communist enemies." *Die Transvaler* believes that the chaotic situation in Mozambique presents danger for the whole subcontinent. "South Africa has a formidable task to keep an eagle eye on the happenings around its borders and to keep by its role of a stabilizing power in the region. [sentence as published] South Africa can only do this if it is fully prepared, remains economically strong, and strives for greater national unity of all its people," says the paper.

'Uncertainty' After Machel Death

A page 14 editorial in Johannesburg *Die Vaderland* in Afrikaans on 21 October says that the death of Mozambican President Samora Machel has "dumped South Africa in dangerous uncertainty. The possibility that he may be succeeded by a radical Marxist cannot be ruled out." However, the paper says that in "the midst of the emotional wave generated by his death, cool heads must be maintained." The editorial also says that the MNR, on its path to vitctory, should also be aware of this, because southern Africa has become "highly flammable."

RSA: 'Mark of Cain'

Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 21 October says in a page 8 editorial that the plane crash which caused the death of President Machel will "worsen the boiling unrest in this southern region of Africa." *Beeld* says that South Africa can "stiffen its back and prepare for all the accusations that will be hurled at it." It "hurts" when countries which South Africa considers to be friends, are so readily prepared to believe the worst about it. The paper believes that it is possible that South Africa's actions in the past have helped to put the "mark of Cain" on it. "The South African Government will do itself and the country a favor by behaving in such a way that even the appearance of involvement is avoided," says the editorial.

DIE REPUBLIKEIN on Disinvestment

"The withdrawal of investments and of companies from South and southern Africa, with the intention of doing away with apartheid, hinges on certain misconceptions which are evidence of ignorance and superficiality," says the Windhoek *Die Republikein* in Afrikaans on 22 October in a page 4 editorial. One of the misconceptions is that sanctioneers are concerend about how many people may become unemployed due to disinvestment. The paper says that "they are under the impression that black people are only workers who will temporarily be unemployed but under a new constitution will be able to resume their work." The paper further points out that blacks have done business with oversees companies which invested in South Africa and SWA/Namibia. Those companies were supported by the blacks but now "they turn their backs on the black people." "Economic murder of all the citizens of a country for the sake of political adjustment" is an "atrocity of the harshest kind," says the editorial.

TRANSVALER on Disinvestment

With reference to the withdrawal of American companies from South Africa, the Pretoria *Die Transvaler* in Afrikaans of 22 October says in its editorial on page 12: "So General Motors of America has, after more than a half century in South Africa, also decided to jump on the disinvestment bandwagon and pull out of the country. Even though in the prevailing economic situation, the company is having problems keeping its head above water, and even though the American directors are concerned about GM's shrinking share of the South African motor vehicle market," it is noteworthy that it is the political reasons which are given for the withdrawal. The editorial concludes: "GM is not indispensible to South Africa. It is only a pity that the break in such a long alliance may be used as an example by others who at the moment are hesitating about their investments in South Africa, and that it will give further driving force to the social and economic miseries which the sanctions campaign holds in store particularly for the black workers of this country."

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Speaks on Support of Mozambican Sovereignty

MB271132 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has declared that Zimbabweans are prepared to die to the last man in defense of the sovereignty of Mozambique because the defense of the sovereignty of that country is also the defense of Zimbabwe. Comrade Mugabe was addressing a mass rally at Rufaro Stadium in Harare today in commemoration of the death of the Mozambican president, Comrade Samora Machel, whose aircraft was shot down in the Natal Province of South Africa last Sunday.

The prime minister also declared that Zimbabwe will not allow a situation where MNR bandits take over power in Mozambique. Comrade Mugabe implicated the South African regime in the death of Comrade Samora Machel. It will serve the Pretoria authorities, but the Botha regime cannot (?dislocate) the Mozambican revolution. He asked: Why did Botha (?back) the MNR?

The prime minister praised the late Mozambican president for the assistance he gave to the Zimbabwean liberation struggle. He said Comrade Machel offered his country as a military base for the Zimbabwean freedom struggle. In 1978 Frelimo fighters joined forces with ZANLA combatants to fight the white repressive regime of Ian Smith, thus cementing the relationship between the people of Mozambique and Zimbabwe in blood.

The prime minister urged liberation movements in South Africa and Namibia to intensify their struggle for freedom, adding that the death of Comrade Machel should serve as an inspiration to the fighting forces in South Africa and Namibia. Comrade Mugabe urged the entire Africa community to take cognizance of the blood-thirsty nature of the Botha regime and impose effective sanctions against South Africa.

Comrade Machel's body is lying in state at the city hall in Maputo until the funeral on Tuesday.

Terms RSA 'Assassins' of Machel

MB261215 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1159 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Excerpts] Harare Oct 26 SAPA — The Zimbabwean prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, today vowed never to allow the right-wing Mozambique Resistance Movement to take over in Maputo following the death of President Samora Machel. [passage omitted]

Mr Mugabe repeated allegations that the South African Government was responsible for President Machel's death, which last week led to serious rioting in Harare. "The Pretoria assassins have once again gunned down a son of Africa," he said, in a highly emotional tribute to the head of state whose support was crucial to the war for black rule in Zimbabwe. "Enough is enough," he added, accusing Pretoria of continually shedding blood both within its own borders and in neighbouring states in order to maintain apartheid. "If appeal to the international community to take cognisance of the events in South Africa... the bloodthirsty nature of the Botha regime, and decide in revulsion to that murderous instinct displayed on a daily basis to impose effective sanctions upon South Africa," he said. [passage omitted]

"The Botha regime cannot assassinate the Mozambican revolution. Why did Botha kill Samora?" asked Mr Mugabe, switching into the Shona vernacular. [passage omitted]

Mugabe Says RSA To Continue 'Assassination' Policy

MB251415 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1411 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Gweru, Oct 25, SAPA — The Zimbabwean prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe today said the death of Mozambican President Samora Machel has exposed the absolute necessity for Zimbabweans to unite and guard their independence jealously, ZIANA, the semi-official news agency reports.

Speaking at the ZANU(PF) Midlands provincial congress, he said Zimbabwe had to attain a level of operational preparedness to defend herself from sudden aggression by both internal and external elements.

"The mysterious plane crash in which President Machel perished has exposed to us the absolute necessity for us to unite and, through the phenomenon and instrumentality of our unity, guard our independence, sovereignty and economic institutions jealously day and night and every hour.

"South Africa will, in its demented defence of the evil and indefensible apartheid continue its desperate acts of aggression and destabilisation including assassination against neighbouring independent states," he said.

The ZANU(PF) president and first secretary said Zimbabwe's only defence was in its unity, vigilance, and readiness to fight.

He said the Boers were committed to the perpertuation of apartheid in South Africa and did not want to see prosperity and the existence of amicable relations between blacks and whites in the neighbouring countries.

Mr Machel's death showed that if Zimbabweans did not unite there would always be disasters not only in the country but in the entire region.

Minister Comments on Mozambique Military Cooperation

MB241915 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] The Zimbabwean minister of information, Dr Nathan Shamuyarira, has told the Mozambican news agency, AIM, that military cooperation between Zimbabwe and Mozambique should be increased after the death of President Machel. Dr Shamuyarira denied reports that Zimbabwe might reduce its military presence in Mozambique.

Minister Claims RSA 'Agents' Seek To Kill Mugabe

MB261918 Harare Domestic Service in English
1745 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Rallies in honor of the late Mozambican president, Samora Machel were held throughout the country. In Gweru, the vice president and second secretary of ZANU-PF, Comrade Simon Muzenda, told a huge crowd that Mozambican leader Comrade Machel will always be rememberd for his personal commitment and sacrifice for the liberation of [words indistinct]. He said Zimbabweans must show their appreciation for Comrade Machel's contribution to the freedom of this country by remaining united under the leadership of the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, and supporting the liberation struggle in South Africa.

Speaking in Morombula, the ZANU-PF secretary for administration, Comrade Maurice Nyagumbo, called on Zimbabweans to come forward and fight alongside their Mozambican comrades to defeat South African-sponsored bandits plundering that country. He urged people to emulate Comrade Machel's aspirations of liberating Zimbabwe and the struggling masses of South Africa and Namibia. Comrade Nyagumbo was also presented with a (?parcel) of 4,500 dollars donated by the Mashonaland East Province toward the funeral expenses of Comrade Machel. He asked those who will be chosen to attend Comrade Machel's funeral in Maputo on Tuesday to wear dark suits or clothes and said the women should wear the ZANU-PF Women's League uniform.

In Bulawayo, the minister of home affairs, Comrade Enos Nkala, described Comrade Machel as not only a hero of Mozambique but also of Africa as a whole. He told a mammoth rally at a memorial service in (?White City) stadium that Zimbabweans must stop quarrelling in the face of mounting South African aggression and must stand together and defeat the common enemy.

At another memorial rally in (Machungo), the minister of local government and urban development, Comrade Enos Chikowore, charged that the racist South Africa had deployed hit squads into Mozambique a week before the death of Comrade Machel. He said the racist regime of South Africa was publishing confusing reports about circumstances surrounding the plane crash in which Comrade Machel died.

Other rallies were held in Mutare where the minister of education, Comrade Dzingai Mutumbuka, addressed people, who included demonstrators carrying placards. In Chiredze and Ndundura, the minister of national supplies, Comrade Simbi Mubako, called on all Zimbabweans to reamin united and defend their hard-won revolution.

In Chinhoyi, the minister of state for security, Comrade Emmerson Munangangwa, disclosed that a group of South African agents have infiltrated into the country with the aim of assassinating the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe. The minister told thousands who had gathered to honor the late Mozambican president, Comrade Machel, that he had reliable information to this effect.

Student Demonstrations To Mourn Machel Continue

MB241307 Harare Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Demonstrations to mourn the untimely death of Comrade Machel continued for the 4th consecutive day in Harare. Three hundred student teachers from the (Morgan Rimpet) College marched through the city carrying placards denouncing apartheid and accusing the Botha regime of complicity in Comrade Machel's death.